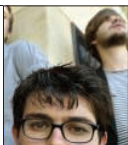


# STARS AND STRIPES.

**Futureheads:  
Brand new  
British pop**

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of munitions from Iraq  
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**Collector's dream:  
Louisville Slugger selling  
off bats, autographs**

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"Shoeless" Joe Jackson's bat

Volume 2, No. 202 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2004

# Pentagon forced to stop anthrax shots

Judge rules FDA improperly approved vaccine for use **Page 8**

## From cursed to first

Red Sox top Cardinals to finish improbable sweep,  
win first World Series since 1918 **Back page**



AP photos

Above: Boston pitcher Bronson Arroyo leaps on top of teammates Jason Varitek, left, Doug Mientkiewicz and Keith Foulke after the Red Sox defeated the St. Louis Cardinals 3-0 in Game 4 to win their first World Series title in 86 years Wednesday at Busch Stadium in St. Louis. Left: People at the University of Massachusetts campus in Amherst, Mass., celebrate after the Red Sox victory.

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Laci Peterson trial:** Jurors in the Scott Peterson murder trial were sent home Wednesday with orders to return Monday for closing arguments after prosecutors and defense attorneys decided against calling additional witnesses.

Prosecutors had said they planned to call eight witnesses after Peterson's lawyers ended their case Tuesday. But when jurors returned Wednesday afternoon, Judge Alfred A. Delucchi said both sides had decided against having additional testimony in the five-month-long case.

Instead, Delucchi read four statements into the record. They dealt with testimony regarding concrete work being done at the home of the Petersons' neighbor, an e-mail recovered from the couple's computer, a store receipt and a printout regarding San Francisco Bay from Scott Peterson's computer.

**Clinton's health:** Former President Clinton may be out on the campaign trail, but he says he feels a bit detached "from the to and fro of the elections."

In an interview with Diane Sawyer on ABC News' "Primetime Live," Clinton also says he prayed for his family before his Sept. 6 heart bypass operation and enjoyed the enforced rest that followed.

"I feel kind of distant from the to and fro of the elections," Clinton says in excerpts made available Wednesday, "and a lot of these things I see happening. I just shake my head and say, 'Gosh, I did that for 20 years, I know, but it doesn't have much to do with how we're gonna live when it's over.' On the other hand, I think it matters profoundly."

He says he suffered no depression after the surgery and didn't mind the recuperation.

**Philadelphia corruption probe:** Prosecutors won four convictions Wednesday in a case related to a wide-ranging corruption investigation that involved FBI wiretapping of city officials and their political supporters.

Farid Ali, 54, the director of a Muslim school in Philadelphia, was convicted on charges she conspired to defraud a city community college of about \$24,000 by setting up an adult education program involving nonexistent students and classes.

Ali's two children, Lakisha Spicer, 27, and Azheem Spicer, 30, were convicted of accepting money to teach courses in the program when they actually performed little work. Eugene D. Weaver III, 30, the son of a Philadelphia Community College administrator, was convicted on the same grounds.

### Business

**Florida hurricanes:** Drinking orange juice will help Florida rebuild from the damage of hurricanes that blew through the state this season, according to a television advertisement approved Wednesday by the Florida Citrus Commission.

The 15-second national television spot shows the names and dates of the three hurricanes that struck Florida's citrus-producing areas in August and September: Charley, Frances and Jeanne. The spot then shows orange juice being poured into a glass as an announcer says, "Every glass you drink is helping rebuild Florida. We thank you."

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Citrus released a citrus estimate that showed the orange crop 27 percent smaller and the grapefruit crop 63 percent thinner than last year's crops due to the hurricanes.

**Delta Air Lines woes:** Delta Air Lines Inc.



**Love assault case:** Courtney Love leaves Los Angeles County Superior Courtroom on Wednesday. Superior Court Commissioner Sanjay Kumar ordered the singer to stand trial on a felony charge of assault with a deadly weapon after listening to testimony from the alleged victim, Kristin Kinn, and a neighbor in the area of the April 25 incident. "There is uncontroverted evidence that without provocation the defendant threw a bottle at the victim and chased her with a flashlight," Kumar said. Love was ordered to appear for arraignment Nov. 10.

took a giant step away from bankruptcy when the pilots union tentatively agreed to a \$1 billion package of contract concessions, including a 32.5 percent wage cut.

The deal was reached Wednesday after 15 months of negotiations that have intensified in recent days, said Karen Miller, spokeswoman for the Air Line Pilots Association.

The wage cut becomes effective Dec. 1, and the agreement includes no wage increases for five years. The union rank and file will vote on the plan from Monday to Nov. 11.

### World

**Gibraltar talks:** Spain and Britain agreed on Wednesday to include Gibraltar for the first time in talks over the disputed territory's future.

Spain's Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos met with his British counterpart Jack Straw in Madrid to discuss a new approach to a 300-year-old conflict.

The new focus will be aimed at improving relations between all parts involved and build at atmosphere of confidence, although Spain will continue to press to recover sovereignty over the Rock at its southern tip.

"I believe Gibraltar won't be a sticky issue any longer in our relations," Moratinos said at a press conference with Straw. "It will become an issue where things will be worked out within a framework of cooperation and dialogue to resolve the different daily problems of the population," he said.

Negotiations over the future of the British colony came to a halt in Nov. 2002, when Gibraltar's 30,000 residents voted overwhelmingly in a nonbinding referendum against the idea of shared British-Spanish rule.

**Dafur crisis:** Rebel accusations that fresh government air-raids killed 26 civilians in

Sudan's troubled Darfur region have cast a pall over peace talks in Nigeria, where African Union mediators trying to end the conflict are making little headway.

Mahgoub Hussain, a spokesman for the rebel Sudan Liberation Army, said Wednesday that the bombings occurred Tuesday and Wednesday in the town of Allait, in eastern Darfur. But Lt. Gen. Mohammed Ismail, the deputy chief of staff of the Sudanese army, said there had been no fresh violence in the area.

"It is still continuing," Hussain said of the bombings, claiming the 26 dead included a pregnant woman. "Definitely this round [of negotiations] will not go well. It is not logical. You are coming here for peace, and you are bombing people over there."

**Mine-clearing deaths:** Prosecutors have dropped charges against two mine-clearing instructors from Britain and Bosnia who had been investigated in the May deaths of two Albanian trainees, officials said Thursday.

Handicap International, which oversaw the training, said charges were dropped against Graham Rees of Britain, and U.N. officials in Albania said Emin Durakovic of Bosnia also was cleared of wrongdoing.

Rees, 45, and Durakovic, 40, were charged with violating rules on handling explosives after a May 24 explosion at a course they held in Kukles killed two Albanians and injured 15 others.

**Bosnia's missing persons:** Forensics experts said Wednesday they have generated DNA profiles from bone samples for more than 10,000 bodies of unidentified mass graves across the former Yugoslavia.

Adnan Rizvic, deputy head of the forensic science department of the International Commission on Missing Persons, said the profiles represent a third of all those still missing after the Balkan wars of the 1990s. The samples are ready to be matched with DNA taken from relatives of the missing.

The DNA identification program started two years ago and is aimed at identifying all the remains found in mass graves throughout former Yugoslavia. Bodies can be returned to the families for burial.

**China asylum policy:** China will punish anyone who helps asylum-seekers break into diplomatic missions, an official said Thursday — a day after two South Korean human rights activists were detained along with 65 North Koreans.

Police arrested the two men in a raid in eastern Beijing amid a recent spate of cases of North Koreans breaking into diplomatic facilities. Asylum-seekers have entered the Canadian and South Korean embassies and other missions in attempts to go to South Korea.

"Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Qin Qiyue said organizers of such 'illegal immigration and breaking into diplomatic missions' will face legal consequences.

**Madrid bombings:** In the first trial stemming from the train bombings in Madrid, Spain, a prosecutor will seek an eight-year jail term for a Spanish teenager charged with transporting dynamite used in the attacks, court officials said Thursday.

The juvenile-court trial of the 16-year-old is expected to be held behind closed doors next month. The boy's identity is known, but Spanish media are barred from publishing it.

A National Court prosecutor announced Wednesday night she will seek eight years in a juvenile detention center for the boy, and after that five years' probation.

Stories and photo from wire services

### Correction

The list of casualties in Thursday's edition included incorrect information about the death of Army Sgt. Dennis J. Boles of Homassa, Fla. Boles died Sunday after completing a 10-mile run.

Look for comics, horoscopes  
and advice columns  
every day in Stars and Stripes

# Militants abduct, kill 11 Iraqi soldiers

## Polish woman taken hostage

BY MARIAM FAM  
The Associated Press

**BAGHDAD** — Insurgents slaughtered 11 Iraqi soldiers, warning on an Islamic militant Web site Thursday that the fighters will avenge "the blood" of women and children killed in American strikes on the guerrilla stronghold of Fallujah.

The wave of foreigner kidnappings claimed another victim — a Polish woman said to be married to an Iraqi. The kidnappers demanded that Poland withdraw its 2,400 soldiers and that the coalition force all Iraqi women held in the Abu Ghraib prison.

CARE International, meanwhile, announced it was shutting down operations in Iraq, as demanded by kidnappers of the organization's director for Iraq, Margaret Hassan.

Elsewhere, two more American soldiers were killed — one in a car bombing in southern Baghdad and the other in an ambush near Balad, 40 miles north of the capital.

In Tokyo, Japanese authorities said they had failed to enlist the help of a prominent Iraqi cleric in trying to free Japanese hostage Shoko Koda who was shown in a video aired Tuesday.

An al-Qaida affiliate led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi threatened to behead Koda in 48 hours unless Japan withdraws its troops from Iraq — a demand rejected by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

The killing of the 11 Iraqi National Guardsmen was claimed by the Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Army, which posted a videotape of their brutal deaths on its Web site along with a warning for all Iraqi police and soldiers to desert or face death. The militants said earlier that the soldiers were abducted this week on the main road between Baghdad and Hillah, 60 miles to the south.

After forcing each of the soldiers to state his name and his unit, the militants forced one of them to growl and saved off his head. The others were forced



AP photos

**Above:** An Iraqi man and child exchange glances with a U.S. Marine during a raid in a residential section of Ramadi, Iraq, on Thursday. Marines raided dozens of buildings, detained six Iraqis and recovered small arms and ammunition, while insurgents attacked the area with mortars and detonated a roadside bomb as the Marines returned to their base. **Right:** U.S. Marines from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment prepare to enter a home during a raid in Ramadi.



to kneel with their hands bound as a gunman fired shots into the back of each of their heads.

A voice on the videotape warned all Iraqi soldiers and police to "repent to God, abandon your weapons, go home and be aware of supporting the apostate Crusaders or their followers, the Iraqi government, or else you will only find death."

U.S. and Iraqi forces are gearing up for a possible assault on Fallujah and other militant strongholds west of Baghdad if community leaders do not hand over foreign fighters and extremists, including al-Zarqawi and his followers.

On Thursday, U.S. aircraft bombed a suspected insurgent safe house in Fallujah, killing two people, hospital officials said.

Insurgents also clashed with U.S. forces in Ramadi, 25 miles west of Fallujah and another militant stronghold. Two people were killed and four wounded, hospital officials said.

The Polish woman was the ninth foreign woman abducted in Iraq since a wave of kidnappings began last spring.

The kidnappers, who called themselves the Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Fundamentalist Brigades, said the woman, who was not identified by name, was a Polish citi-

zen working with U.S. troops in Iraq. The militants demanded that Poland withdraw its troops from Iraq, as well as the release of all Iraqi female prisoners. Defense Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski said the Polish government would not submit to the kidnappers' demands.

Also Thursday, a separate armed group calling itself Al-Islam's Army Brigades, Al-Karar Brigade, said it obtained a "huge amount of the explosives" that are missing from the Al-Qaqa weapons installation south of Baghdad.

It threatened to use the weapons if U.S. and Iraqi forces attack

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,109 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 846 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is three higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Wednesday at 10 a.m. EDT.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 971 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 73 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest death reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed Wednesday when a motorcycle bomber attacked a U.S. convoy in central Iraq.

The latest identification reported by the military:

■ Marine Cpl. Brian Oliveira, 22, Raynham, Mass., killed Monday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

insurgent strongholds in central Iraq. The claim couldn't be independently verified and the tape offered no evidence that the claim was genuine.

# NATO asked to help outfit Iraqi forces with weapons

BY CHARLIE COON  
Stars and Stripes

MONS, Belgium — NATO countries are being asked to help equip Iraq's new soldiers and security officers once the fledgling Iraqi government figures out what it will need to combat insurgents.

Marine Gen. James L. Jones, supreme allied commander in Europe, said Thursday that nations are being asked to contribute small arms, light-armored vehicles, rifles, grenades, vehicles and basic aircraft.

"We're still in the initial stages," he said.

"We'll coordinate contributions for both NATO and non-NATO members," Jones said. "Anybody who wishes to contribute equipment."

Jones, speaking at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers, Europe, said the Iraqi government would ask for the spe-



Jones

cific assets it felt it needed to defeat the insurgents. So far, those insurgents have killed hundreds of Iraqi men who signed up, or tried to sign up, to become soldiers or police officers in the new government.

Once the government requests the weapons and equipment it needs, NATO will try to arrange the transaction.

The initial outfitting of the Iraqi army and police would likely consist of "basic war-fighting equipment," Jones said. After the country gets back on its feet economically, NATO could then help coordinate sales and contribu-

tions to rebuild Iraq's decimated air force and navy.

Jones said that NATO was concentrating on collecting weaponry used by former Soviet bloc countries, which was similar to the weapons used by Iraq's army under former President Saddam Hussein.

"We are trying to give them the type of equipment they are most familiar with, because that obviously saves time," Jones said.

"We are consulting with any number of nations that has that equipment. As we get into NATO [military] transformation, we believe we will have excess equip-

ment, excess bases, excess manpower.

"And if we can get that excess equipment and if we can somehow get it to the Iraqis, this will be good," Jones said.

The U.S.-led military coalition defeated Saddam's army and overthrew the dictator in spring 2003.

The way that the equipment will be collected, paid for and distributed, and the time line for arming Iraq's soldiers and police, is still being worked out, Jones said.

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Spc. Joseph Barnaba, 30, of Opelousas, La., fires his M-16 at the remote Udairi Range in the desert of northwestern Kuwait. His unit, the 256th Brigade Combat Team of the Louisiana National Guard, is training for duty in Iraq. It is the first unit of the third wave of troops to serve in Iraq in what is being called Operation Iraqi Freedom '04-'06.

PHOTOS BY STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

## Tiger Brigade whets claws for next Iraq war rotation

BY STEVE LIEWER  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait

**A**t a dusty base camp in northwest Kuwait, the third wave is preparing for the fight.

For almost three weeks, 3,000 members of the 256th Brigade Combat Team — led by Louisiana National Guardsmen but supplemented with troops from New York, Minnesota, Wisconsin and elsewhere — have been drilling in urban warfare and honing their marksmanship skills.

The "Tiger Brigade" is the tip of the spear in what the Pentagon is calling Operation Iraqi Freedom '04-'06: the third rotation of troops since the March 2003 invasion

that toppled the dictator Saddam Hussein.

"We're proud. It's an historic moment," said Lt. Col. Jordan Jones, 42, commander of the Tiger Brigade's 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery. "We're pleased to be relieving our brothers."

The first rotation began in late 2002. The second took place during the early part of 2004, when more than 130,000 troops replaced the invasion and postinvasion forces.

This fall, the Tiger Brigade stands almost alone at Buehring. Everyone lives in climate-controlled tents or hard-shelled portable living units.

Due to adjustments to the new west rotation, soldiers can walk

right into the chow hall, post exchange or sandwich shop with little or no waiting, a sharp contrast to the overcrowded camps of the last two troop rotations.

Although they've just arrived in the Middle East, camp life is not new to these guardsmen. They've been activated since May and have spent most of the intervening months at Fort Hood, Texas, or the Army's vast National Training Center in the California desert. They've spent only a few weeks at home.

The seemingly odd mix of Louisianians and New Yorkers makes up the bulk of this brigade. The forerunners of Jones' "Washington Artillery" unit — among the oldest gun batteries in the country — once fired at the ancestors of Capt. Sean Flynn, commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, at the early Civil War battle of Malvern Hill, Va.

"The Fighting 69th" is descended from the Irish Brigade, one of the most famous Civil War regiments. Flynn's great-grandfather and four brothers all fought for the unit in the Union Army, and many of his relatives since have served in the brigade.

"You'd be hard-pressed to find any Irish family in New York that doesn't have some connection to this unit," said Flynn, a 32-year-old writer from Brooklyn.

Although they still paint shamrocks on their Humvees, the Fighting 69th is now a polyglot of first-generation Americans. Flynn said his company includes natives of Puerto Rico, Colombia, Peru, South Korea and Poland.

Guardsmen from both New York and Louisiana said the union

## N.Y. unit's veterans have mixed feelings over Mideast return

BY STEVE LIEWER  
Stars and Stripes

**CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait** — When Staff Sgt. David Lluvera headed home after the first Gulf War 13 years ago, he could hardly have imagined one day he'd be dusting Kuwaiti desert sand from his boots again.

"I said goodbye to this [sewer] hole once, and I never thought I'd be back," said Lluvera, now 33, a soldier with the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment of the New York National Guard.

Lluvera and his buddies in the "Fighting 69th" are in Kuwait this week, preparing to convoy north for a year's duty in central Iraq as part of the 256th Brigade Combat Team, a Louisiana National Guard unit. The brigade marks the start of the third set of troops to rotate into the Middle East as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, but the deployment isn't the unit's first tour since Sept. 11, 2001.

The 1-69 Infantry is based in midtown Manhattan, only a few miles from the site of the terror attacks on the World Trade Center. It lost two members when the Twin Towers collapsed. Everyone else, unasked, reported for duty that day — including one company commander who had barely escaped from the skyscrapers and showed up covered head-to-toe in dusty debris.

The battalion served two exhausting months guarding Ground Zero and other key sites immediately following the attacks.

"This is what the National Guard was there for: to defend our country against an attack,"



Staff Sgt. David Lluvera, 33, of the New York National Guard, is a veteran of the first Gulf War.

said Capt. Sean Flynn, 32, of Brooklyn, and 1st Battalion's Company B commander.

"We were very close to everything that happened on Sept. 11th," Flynn said.

Still, only a few in the unit have actually fought in combat before.

Spc. Shannon Flahive, 28, served four years as a combat engineer with the German-made 1st Armored Division, the last six months of it in Iraq. He left the Army in September 2003 to return home in Altica, N.Y., and study for the New York State Troop-

er's exam. He joined the National Guard, only to find himself called up for another Iraq tour.

Back in the desert, he feels a weird sense of déjà vu.

"It feels like I went home for a little leave, and now I'm back again," Flahive said.

His 1st AD unit entered Baghdad shortly after the capital fell to coalition troops. His unit's sector was quiet at first, but he saw the insurgency slowly build and remembers the lessons he learned from his first time in Iraq.

"You've got to be strong, but not mean," he said. "The [units] that were heavy-handed, they were the ones that were getting hit a lot."

Flahive said the training the 256th BCT has gone through since its activation last May is much more on point. During the run-up to the invasion, the 1st AD focused on battling an organized fighting force — a skill the division didn't need after the Iraqi army melted away faster than expected.

This time, he said, the training

SEE RETURN ON PAGE 5



Soldiers from the Louisiana National Guard's 256th Brigade Combat Team relax after their tank as they prepare to convoy north from Camp Buehring, Kuwait, to Iraq. The 256th BCT is the first unit of the third wave of troops to serve in Iraq. From left are: Staff Sgt. Stanley Shavers Jr., 38, of DeKalb, Texas; 1st Lt. Keith Bores, 30, of Shreveport, La.; and Spc. Bernard Sembly, 25, also of Shreveport.



Spc. Shannon Flahive, 28, of the New York National Guard, served half a year in Iraq in 2003 with the 1st Armored Division before leaving the Army. Now he's headed back for a yearlong tour with his Guard unit.

SEE ROTATE ON PAGE 5



# Experts troubled over missing weapons in Iraq

Some worried other arms caches will fall into enemy hands

By WILLIAM J. KOLE

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Revelations that nearly 400 tons of conventional explosives have gone missing in Iraq have experts wondering what other weapons might be in jeopardy of falling into insurgent or terrorist hands.

Even the U.S. State Department concedes it can't provide "100 percent security for 100 percent of the sites." By all accounts, Iraq is studied with weapons depots — many in places where U.S.-led forces are preoccupied with their fiercest fighting.

Troubling questions about what other weapons might be vulnerable to looting have arisen since the U.N. nuclear agency's warning this week that 377 U.S. tons of non-nuclear explosives disappeared from the former Al-Qaqa military installation south of Baghdad.

"You'd think that those sites would be the highest priority for guarding in the immediate aftermath of the invasion," said Shannon Kyle, senior researcher on nu-

clear arms control and nonproliferation at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in Sweden.

The explosives missing from Al-Qaqa alone could produce hundreds of thousands of bombs — more than enough to "fuel an insurgency literally for years," Kyle said Tuesday.

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei reported their disappearance to the U.N. Security Council on Monday, two weeks after he said Iraq told his agency that the explosives had vanished as a result of "theft and looting ... due to lack of security."

The explosives included HMX and RDX, key components in plastic explosives, which insurgents in Iraq have used to deadly effect in months of bloody car bomb attacks on the U.S.-led multinational force.

Among Iraq's known weapons depots is one near Khaldiya, about 50 miles west of the capital, where a suicide car bomber attacked a U.S. convoy on Monday, destroying at least 20 Humvees.

Others have been identified around Tikrit and in the desert near Karbala — places where U.S.-led forces have battled insurgents and been targeted by car bombs.

Last week, a U.S. patrol discovered a huge weapons cache at a large depot near Salman Pak, south of Baghdad. The cache included 450 anti-tank mines, 300 grenades, 35 rocket-propelled grenades, as well as mortar shells and primers.

Richard Guthrie, project leader for the Stockholm Institute's chemical and biological warfare project, said he doubts a single group of insurgents could have obtained the missing explosives.

"If this is in terrorist hands, then it's sort of a surprise that there aren't more large-scale bombings taking place," said Guthrie, who believes it is more likely the explosives were carried off by dozens of different looters in the post-invasion chaos.

The Pentagon said U.S.-led forces who searched the Al-Qaqa facility after last year's invasion found some explosive material, but none of it carried IAEA seals.

See related story on Page 6

The nuclear agency's inspectors had sealed storage bunkers shortly before the war because HMX is a "dual use" explosive that also can be used as an ignitor on a nuclear bomb.

"Our greatest concern from both a proliferation standpoint and from a standpoint of danger to human beings was Al-Qaqa," IAEA spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said.

Weapons experts are questioning why Al-Qaqa — once a key facility in Saddam Hussein's effort to build a nuclear bomb — wasn't under 24-hour guard.

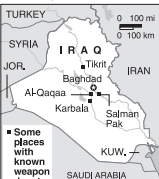
The facility was considered "the pre-eminent site for high explosive stockpiles," a U.S. official said on condition of anonymity.

"What is most disturbing is I can remember talking about these same explosives after the fall of Baghdad, basically asking the question, 'Are these explosives protected?'" said David Albright, a former chief U.S. nuclear inspector who now runs the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security.

Fleming said the Iraqis have

## Weapons at risk

The disappearance of 377 tons of explosives have experts worrying that other weapons might be in jeopardy of falling into insurgent or terrorist hands.



SOURCE: International Atomic Energy Agency

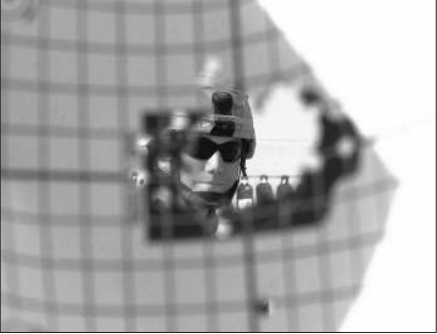
not reported any other missing materials to the IAEA, but that the agency's chief Iraq inspector, Jacques Baute, "would encourage more such reporting on what has happened to sites subject to IAEA verification."

Associated Press writer Mattias Karen contributed to this story from Stockholm, Sweden.

Spc. Houston Byrne, of Monterey, La., peers through a target into which he had just shot 120 rounds into from his M-16.

Byrne and his unit, the 1089th Engineer Battalion of the Louisiana National Guard, were at the range confirming weapon zeros and expending excess ammo as they get ready to head into Iraq with the 256th Brigade Combat Team.

CURT CASHOUR  
Courtesy of the U.S. Army



## Rotate: Brigade prepared for duty

ROTATE, FROM PAGE 4

has been smooth. They say their differences united, more than divided, them, feeding the good-natured joking that forms the basis of close male friendships.

"When it comes down to it," added Staff Sgt. David Luvera, 33, of Corum, N.Y., "we're all flying the same flag."

Butterflies rumble around in almost every belly now, no matter what state the soldiers come from. Most of them confess to a touch of nerves but no real fear as they brace for the convoy ride north. It's the mix of anxiety and eagerness that new warriors have felt since the beginning of man.

"I don't really know what to expect," said Sgt. Paul Salmer, 23, of the 256th BCT, a security alarm installer from Broussard, La. "I'm kind of anxious to see what's going to happen."

To bolster the troops' confidence, their command-

ers have drilled them endlessly in how to respond to unexpected attacks. They believe they are ready.

"It's kind of like turning the muscle memory on," said Staff Sgt. Stanley Shavers Jr., 38, a Texan who serves in the Tiger Brigade. "Hopefully, if everything goes right, we won't have to fire a single shot."

"Anything that tries to attack us," said 1st Lt. Keith Bored, 30, of Shreveport, La., "we're prepared."

Luvera served in combat during the Persian Gulf War. He said training is helpful, but nothing quite compares with the reality of combat, something most of the men in his unit haven't yet experienced.

"It'll all come together when the first bullet passes over their heads," he said. "It's really liberating, actually."

"The No. 1 thing we can do is control everything we can," Flynn said. "A lot of things are in God's hands."

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.istripes.osd.mil

## Return: Familiar turf but different circumstances

RETURN, FROM PAGE 4

stressed urban-warfare skills. It included role-playing exercises with U.S. citizens of Iraqi descent.

"We actually trained for what we'll be doing," he said.

Three of Flahe's comrades in Company B of the 1-69 Infantry, Luvera, 1st Lt. Brian Rathburn, and Cpl. David Webster served in the first Gulf War. Although the turf is familiar, all three said the circumstances this time are far different.

"It was a simple mission, clearly defined," said Rathburn, 34, of St. James, N.Y., who stormed the beaches with the 4th Marine Expeditionary Force in 1991. "You knew who the enemy was. They had specific uniforms, specific tactics."

"[Now, the enemy is] not that easy to pinpoint. We're trying to find two or three guys in a sand-box," said Luvera, who became an aircraft mechanic in civilian life after ending his nine-year Army career in 1998.

"It's almost as if you're running for office," Rathburn said. "You're trying to win the people over to your side."

All agree they've gained maturity and experience since their first Middle East adventure. But they're also boldered with more care.

"Now I've got a family," said Rathburn, now a Suffolk County police officer. "My wife's home. She's about to give birth any day."

But all agree their unit has trained well. The Sept. 11, 2001,



STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

As a young enlisted Marine in the first Gulf War, 1st Lt. Brian Rathburn of the New York National Guard stormed the beaches of Kuwait with the 4th Marine Expeditionary Force. Now he's back as part of his Guard unit.

terror attacks quite literally hit home, and they've got a personal stake in the war on terror.

Revenge, or patriotism, can take a soldier only so far. When it's time to fight, Luvera said, something else must kick in. A complex war with a hidden enemy makes turning the killer switch on and off a delicate business.

"It's all been training, until now," he said. "When you make that first contact — when you're forced to take someone's life — that's when it all becomes real."

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## Gen. says more troops needed in Afghanistan

BY PAUL AMES  
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — NATO's commander in Afghanistan said Wednesday he hopes allied nations will give his peacekeeping force the troops it needs to expand into the west of the country before parliamentary elections scheduled for April.

French Lt. Gen. Jean-Louis Py said the allies should have committed troops for the western sector by the end of November, but that their deployment could be complicated by the onset of winter.

"If the nations provide what is required for the expansion there is no problem," Py told reporters at NATO headquarters.

"Hopefully it will be done before the parliamentary elections," Py said the movement to the west would depend on whether troop numbers were increased in time and "on the capacity to deploy in bad weather conditions."

Since taking over peacekeeping in Kabul in August 2003, NATO has slowly expanded its mission, replacing the separate, U.S.-led combat mission as regions become more stable.

It completed a gradual move into the north last month. The next step is for the alliance to take over the western sector so the U.S.-led force can focus on Taliban and al-Qaida holdouts in the south and east.

The NATO peacekeeping operation has 9,500 troops, while the U.S.-led combat force has 18,000.

NATO officials say Italy and Canada are likely to provide extra troops to enable it to take over in western regions, while the United States could switch some of its troops in the area to alliance command.

Alliance officials declined to say how many troops are needed for the operation.

Py and NATO's civilian envoy to Afghanistan, Hikmet Cetin, presented alliance headquarters with an upbeat assessment of this month's presidential elections won by the Western-backed incumbent Hamid Karzai.

Cetin and Py said the parliamentary vote provisionally scheduled for April 23 would be more complex, since there would be thousands of candidates and a real risk of localized rivalries flaring into conflict.

He said that did not necessarily mean that his force would need a large number of reinforcements over the election period, saying that a small number of high mobility units could do the job, similar to the around 2,000 extra troops deployed for the presidential vote.

Py welcomed last week's agreement among NATO allies for the Afghan mission's leadership to rotate until 2007 — to end the present system where NATO military commanders have to scramble twice a year to find a lead nation.

# Were explosives moved before war?

## Officer says it's unlikely large-scale removal of explosives occurred after U.S. invasion

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry hammers President Bush's administration for the disappearance of nearly 400 tons of explosives in Iraq, Pentagon experts are suggesting the ordnance could have been moved before the United States invaded in March 2003.

An infantry commander said Wednesday it is "very highly improbable" that someone could have trucked out so much material once U.S. forces arrived in the area.

Col. David Perkins commanded the 2nd Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division, the division that led the charge into Baghdad. Those troops first captured the Iraqi weapons depot from which 377 tons of explosives disappeared.

Two major roads that pass near the Al-Qaqa installation were filled with U.S. military traffic in the weeks after April 3, 2003, when U.S. troops first reached the area, the colonel said.

Perkins and others in the military acknowledged that some looting at the site had taken place. But he said a large-scale operation to remove the explosives using trucks almost certainly would have been detected.

Perkins, now a staff officer at the Pentagon, was made available to reporters by Defense Department spokesmen.

Just days before the Nov. 2 U.S. election,

the Kerry campaign has pointed to the missing explosives as evidence of the Bush administration's poor handling of the war. Bush officials have responded that more than a thousand times that amount of explosives and munitions in Iraq have been recovered or destroyed.

Mike McCurry, an adviser to Kerry, said, "From some of the Pentagon reporting today, there is a window that's available there where either just prior to or just after the invasion, there could have been an opportunity for either Saddam to move the weapons or for something happening after that facility had been abandoned."

"And that is up to the administration to best determine how to answer that question when that happened. But they don't have an answer, and that's what we're asking for," McCurry said.

Larry Di Rita, the Pentagon's top spokesman, said what ultimately happened to the explosives is unknown. The department is investigating. But Perkins' description seemed to point toward the possibility that the explosives were removed before the U.S.-led invasion to oust Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, rather than during the chaos afterward.

The colonel did not directly offer that conclusion.

Meanwhile, The Washington Times reported Thursday that Russian special forces troops moved many of Saddam's weapons and related goods out of Iraq and into Syria in the

weeks before the March 2003 military operation.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Vyacheslav Sedov dismissed the allegations as "absurd" and "ridiculous."

"I can state officially that the Russian Defense Ministry and its structures couldn't have been involved in the disappearance of the explosives, because all Russian military experts left Iraq when the international sanctions were introduced during the 1991 Gulf War," he said.

John A. Shaw, the U.S. deputy undersecretary of defense for international technology security, told The Times in an interview that he believes the Russian troops, working with Iraqi intelligence, "almost certainly" removed the high-explosive material.

"The Russians brought in, just before the war got started, a whole series of military units," Shaw was quoted as saying. "Their main job was to shred all evidence of any of the contractual arrangements they had with the Iraqis. The others were transportation units."

Shaw, who was in charge of cataloging the tons of conventional arms provided to Iraq by foreign suppliers, said he recently obtained reliable information on the arms-dispersal program from two European intelligence services that have detailed knowledge of the Russian-Iraqi weapons collaboration.

Most of Saddam's most powerful arms were systematically separated from other arms like mortars, bombs and rockets, and sent to Syria and Lebanon, and possibly to Iran, he said.

## Soldiers leave their mark on Iraq's ruins



Left: U.S. Army soldiers tour through the rebuilt ruins of Babylon, Iraq, on Oct. 20. A sign reminds them to respect the ruins.

Above: University of Texas graffiti adorns the rebuilt walls of Babylon. U.S. soldiers are the latest in a long line of powerful forces visiting on 4,000-year-old Babylon, and they have left their mark, in graffiti scratched into walls Saddam Hussein added in hopes of joining his predecessors' pantheon.

# Group blasts U.S. policy on prisoner abuse

By DANIEL WOOLLS

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — The United States publicly condemns the abuse of prisoners even while engaging in it behind closed doors, Amnesty International said Wednesday in a report using an independent investigation into the issue.

"In the war on terror, the U.S. has not practiced what it has preached on the treatment of prisoners," said Rob Freer, lead author of the 200-page report tracing U.S. abuses in Afghanistan, at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba and at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

He said the study was being released six months after the Abu Ghraib photos were first revealed — showing naked prisoners piled on top of each other, being threatened with dogs or forced to wear leashes — to try to ensure that this scandal and the issue of torture does not fall off the U.S. political agenda.

## Amnesty International calls for an independent probe of detention sites, interrogation practices

Freer denied that the London-based human rights group was trying to influence the election by releasing the report less than a week before Americans vote for president, and it does not care who wins.

"All we are raising are human rights issues, and whoever wins the election, we will be working to try and persuade that new administration to stop any practices that facilitate torture and also to commit themselves to a commission of inquiry," Freer said.

He said U.S. military investigations of prisoner abuse "have really only gone to a certain level" and it remains unknown how high up blame for the scandal should go in the U.S. military chain of command.

"There are little pieces of information

but the full picture is not available. And that is why we need a full, independent inquiry," Freer said.

The Pentagon on Wednesday refused to comment on the Amnesty report.

The report said it called in May for an independent investigation, perhaps by the U.S. Congress. It urged that a commission with subpoena powers and full access to secret information and agencies conduct the inquiry. To insure impartiality, the commission should include international experts, it said.

Short of such a full investigation, Amnesty International urged the U.S. government to unequivocally condemn torture and ban it by legislation, ensure access to prisoners, abolish secret detentions, ratify rele-

vant international treaties and pay reparations to victims.

Amnesty said military investigations have shown that alleged U.S. abuses have not been confined either to Abu Ghraib or to a few soldiers.

"[Yet] there remains a need for a full commission of inquiry that takes a genuinely comprehensive and independent look at the U.S.'s 'war on terror' detention and interrogation policies and procedures, and examines the activities of all government agencies and all levels of government," the report said.

Three U.S. soldiers have been sentenced to prison terms of between eight months and eight years for abusing prisoners at Abu Ghraib. Two more soldiers are due to stand trial early next year.

The highest-ranking soldier indicted so far is Staff Sgt. Ivan "Chip" Frederick, who received the eight-year sentence. No senior officers have been charged, although several have received letters of reprimand or were relieved of command.

## Army is ready to rebuild Sadr City

By JIM KRANE

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.S. Army is readying to spend \$330 million on sewer and water projects in a rebellious Shiite Muslim slum in Baghdad, as it waits for the last of over 1,000 homemade bombs to be dug out from under the neighborhood streets, the Army's commander of Baghdad said Wednesday.

Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, whose 1st Cavalry Division spent weeks fighting the Shiite Mahdi militia in the Sadr City district, said the recent cease-fire and weapons buyback program has brought a measure of calm to east Baghdad.

"We haven't been shot at in Sadr City in two weeks," Chiarelli said in a briefing with reporters at division headquarters near Baghdad International Airport.

Chiarelli said 8,000 Iraqi workers are ready to start a nine-month of infrastructure improvements on Saturday, digging up the streets to install sewer, water and electricity lines to the impoverished neighborhood, home to some 2.5 million.

The start of the project, however, hinges on the Mahdi militia, controlled by rebel cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, upholding its agreement to disable and cart away the dozens of makeshift bombs that remain buried there. Soldiers patrolling the neighborhood recently unearthed 44 bombs from a four-block area, Chiarelli said.

The Army seems intent on pacifying Sadr City in time for a widely expected assault on rebel strongholds in western Iraq,



Al Iraqi boy watches U.S. soldiers patrol Baghdad's Muslim Shiite slum Sadr City on Monday. Now that fighting has died down, the Army can go in and begin sewer and water projects.

with the aim of preventing Shiite militias from opening a second front.

In April, Shiite fighters took advantage of the failed U.S. assault on Fallujah to overrun several cities in south-central Iraq, causing the Army to pull back departing troops.

That uprising took months to quell and as many as 4,000 were killed, almost all of them Shiite fighters.

Brig. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, a 1st Cavalry deputy commander, said al-Sadr's lieutenants are asking for cash rewards for every bomb they remove from the streets. The division has asked U.S. Embassy officials to pressure the Iraqi government to see that the militia finish the removal task it agreed to more than a week ago, Hammond said.

Militia members bury the bombs by setting fires alight on the streets and then digging up the melted asphalt, placing the bomb, and repaving the hole while the pavement is still hot, Chiarelli said.

Detonator wires leading from the center of the street usually indicate that a bomb is buried nearby. Chiarelli said the wires course up light poles and over rooftops into nearby homes, where insurgents wait for approaching U.S. vehicles before pressing a detonator button.

The Iraqi government's weapons buyback program, which ended less than a week ago, brought in truckloads of heavy weapons — including mortars, artillery rounds, rockets and rocket-propelled grenades — from Shiite fighters.

## Uncovering mass graves in Iraq is a slow process

By GEORGE GEDDA

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Iraq's 270 mass graves could be the key to a successful prosecution of Saddam Hussein, but bodies have been dug up at only one site in the year and a half since he was toppled.

Worries about security at the grave sites and a lack of resources and direction from the Iraqi government have contributed to the slow progress.

Also, Europeans with expertise in exhumations generally are not helping because of their aversion to the death penalty, a legal punishment in Iraq that Saddam could well face.

Saddam appeared in court July 1 to hear seven preliminary charges, including the killing of rival politicians and of Kurds and Shiites.

Eleven leading officials from his regime also face trial. Among them is Ali Hasan al-Majid, known as "Chemical Ali" for his role in chemical weapons attacks against the Kurds.

Iraq's interim prime minister, Ayad Allawi, is eager for an early start to the trials, but U.S. officials say patience is necessary to ensure the proceedings meet the highest international standards.

The graves are among the chief legacies of Saddam's regime. About 270 grave sites have been identified, but exhumations have begun only at the site near the Kurdish town of Hatra.

Some of the worst massacres occurred in Kurdish areas in the 1980s. At the time, however, the Reagan administration said virtu-

ally nothing about the butchery because the United States was siding with Iraq in that country's war with Iran.

As of earlier this month, investigators had removed 120 bodies from a trench believed to contain about 300. A bulldozer appeared to have been used to dump remains into graves. The infant was shot in the back of the head and the mother in the face.

Indeed, many of the remains were those of women and children. In Bosnia, scene of widespread ethnic cleansing operations a decade ago, the great majority were fighting-age men.

U.S. officials say quicker action on exhuming sites in Iraq could have served as good publicity relations for an administration struggling for politically positive images from Iraq — something to contrast with the slaughter carried out by Iraqi insurgents and their foreign allies.

But the insurgency in Iraq is making it hard to get to those sites to examine them.

Only a small percentage of the remains unearthed in Iraq will be used for courtroom evidence against Saddam and his former lieutenants. For the rest, attempts will be made to identify them to help Iraqi families come to closure.

One group expected to play a key role in the exhumations is the International Commission for Missing Persons, which has had extensive experience in identifying remains of Bosnian war crime victims.

# Court orders DoD to stop anthrax shots

## Judge rules mandatory program 'illegal,' says FDA wrongly approved vaccine

By MARC KAUFMAN  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department must immediately stop inoculating soldiers with anthrax vaccine, a federal judge ruled Wednesday, saying the Food and Drug Administration acted improperly when it approved the experimental injections for general use.

Concluding that the FDA violated its own rules by approving the vaccine late last year, U.S. District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan said the mandatory vaccination program — which has inoculated more than 1.2 million soldiers since 1998 — is "illegal."

Sullivan wrote that his ban on involuntary vaccination will remain in effect until the FDA reviews the anthrax vaccine properly or until President Bush determines the normal process must be waived due to emergency circumstances.

The Defense Department has

required many soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan to be vaccinated and has punished and sometimes court-martialed those who refused. The department expanded its anthrax and smallpox vaccination programs in July to include troops stationed in South Korea and other areas in Asia and Africa, despite complaints from some soldiers that the vaccine made them sick.

In a statement, the Defense Department said it is reviewing the decision and will "pause giving anthrax vaccinations until the legal situation is clarified." DoD remains convinced that the anthrax immunization program complies with all the legal requirements and that the anthrax vaccine is safe and effective.

In his decision, Sullivan wrote that the FDA's approval was invalid because it did not meet required review standards and failed to seek the necessary public comment.

"Congress has prohibited the administration of investigational drugs to service members without their consent," he said. "This Court will not permit the government to circumvent this requirement."

"The men and women of our armed forces deserve the assurance that the vaccines our government compels them to take into their bodies have been tested by the greatest scrutiny of all — public scrutiny."

This is the process the FDA in its expert judgment has outlined, and this is the course this court shall compel FDA to follow," Sullivan wrote.

The judge ruled on a suit filed in March 2003 by six servicemembers who argued that the FDA never properly reviewed the vaccine for its actual threat from anthrax, so there was never any real need for the vaccine," Zaid said.

have experienced extreme fatigue, joint pain and temporary memory loss after being vaccinated.

The vaccine, made by BioPort of Lansing, Mich., is given as a series of several shots.

Mark Zaid, an attorney for the six who has also defended more than a dozen servicemembers court-martialed for refusing the vaccine, said one of his clients was a breast-feeding mother who did not think the vaccine was safe for her child.

"We will now initiate an effort to ensure the government reverses all punishments that were imposed for refusing an order to take the vaccine," Zaid said.

Sullivan initially ruled in late 2003 that the FDA had never ap-

proved the vaccine and ordered inoculations to stop. Eight days later, the FDA approved the vaccine based on an application made 18 years earlier, and the inoculation program resumed. Wednesday's ruling concluded the agency did not follow its own rules in deciding the vaccine was safe and effective.

In particular, Sullivan criticized the FDA for not allowing public comment on its decision — a prerequisite for any approval. The FDA argued that some comments had been submitted as part of a 2001 citizens' petition questioning proposals to begin the vaccinations, but Sullivan found them insufficient. "It is clear to this Court that if the status of the anthrax vaccine were open for public comment today, the agency would receive a deluge of comments and analysis that might inform an open-minded agency," he wrote.

Washington Post staff writer Bradley Graham and researcher Madama Lebling contributed to this report.

# Air Force adds specialties to career job reservation list

By LISA BURGESS  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Air Force officials are tweaking the career job reservation, or CJR, list, adding five specialties to the "constrained" list, for which re-enlistments are prohibited without an airman retraining into another field, and dropping six other jobs from the roster.

Rules requires all first-term airmen must have an approved career job reservation before they can re-enlist, and only first-term airmen selected for re-enlistment by their commander are allowed to apply for a CJR.

If an airman has not gotten a CJR in the job he or she wants by the end of the re-enlistment window, he or she must either retrain into a shortage career field, or leave the service.

Effective Oct. 1, the five newly constrained jobs, Mitchell said, include:

- 1T1X1 — Aircraft life support
- 2A3X3b — Tactical aircraft maintenance for the F-16 and F-117 AXXS3D — Integrated avionics systems, communication, navigation, and mission
- 2E1X4 — Visual imagery and intrusion
- 3C0X1 — Communications computer systems operations
- Also effective Oct. 1, the six jobs removed from the CJR list include:
- 2AX2 — helicopter maintenance
- 2M0X2 — missile and space systems maintenance
- 2R0X1 — maintenance management analysis
- 2T3X5 — vehicle body maintenance

■ 2W1X1 — aircraft armament systems (includes basic job code and all suffixes)

■ 3E1X1 — electrical systems

The CJR was first used in the late 1990s, when retention was poor, but certain career fields were over-manned and those people could be used elsewhere, according to service officials.

Now the service has a different problem: Despite a number of manning programs, the service is still over its congressionally authorized end strength by 12,453 airmen, Air Force spokeswoman Jennifer Stephens said Thursday.

The service has several "force shaping" options, including incentives to get people to join reserve units and the new "Blue to Green" interservice transfer program to the Army, which needs to add 20,000 soldiers to its roster.

Force shaping also includes the CJR, which Air Force officials decided to reinstate in May with 30 jobs listed as "constrained."

Air Staff officials look at job manning levels every month and adjust the CJR list as necessary "because we constantly have people coming in and leaving," Master Sgt. Randy Mitchell, a spokesman for the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, told Stripes Thursday in a telephone interview.

For more information on the CJR and a list of constrained job fields, airmen should go to their Military Personnel Flight's re-enlistment office, or visit the CJR Web site at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlistments/CJRs.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlistments/CJRs.htm)

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The USS Constellation passes Fort McHenry as it departs Baltimore for a week-long visit to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. The historic voyage marks the first time the only Civil War-era vessel still afloat has traveled beyond the Key Bridge since 1955 and her first return to the Naval Academy in more than 110 years.

## Constellation returns to Naval Academy

By FOSTER KLUG  
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The only Civil War-era vessel still afloat left its mooring Tuesday for a leisurely cruise to the Naval Academy — its first trip to Annapolis in 111 years.

The venerable USS Constellation can no longer make the 30-mile trip on her own power, so the ship of war was being pushed to the academy by tugboats. The six-day visit is part of a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Constellation, launched in 1854.

It's the ship's first time out of Baltimore's Inner Harbor since 1955, said Christopher Rowsom, executive director of the USS

Constellation Museum. The trip was expected to take around seven hours.

"We're taking it slow and easy," Rowsom said. "The ship is in good shape for this. But she is old."

As the Constellation passed Baltimore's Fort McHenry, where American troops withstood a British bombardment during the War of 1812 that inspired "The Star-Spangled Banner," four A-10 Warthogs from the Maryland Air National Guard flew overhead.

The ship is 186 feet long, with a beam of 42 1/2 feet. The hull is made of white oak.

The Constellation served as a training ship at the Naval Academy from 1871 to 1893.

# Texas soldier cited with aggravated perjury

The Associated Press

ROCKPORT, Texas — Andrew Isbell wore an Army sergeant's uniform, two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart during his drug possession trial in August. Now authorities are citing military records that show he worked in food service, never was in the infantry, never attained a rank above private and

didn't receive the medals he wore, the Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported in its Wednesday editions.

Isbell, 23, told jurors in August that he was an infantryman who had patrolled the streets in Baghdad. He was on leave, he said, after suffering a gunshot wound. Isbell was acquitted of the drug charge. But he has since been charged with aggravated perjury in Aransas County.



## IN THE STATES

## Bush, Kerry race to win Midwestern states

The Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio — In a stinging exchange, President Bush criticized Democratic challenger John Kerry as "the wrong man for the wrong job at the wrong time" on Thursday while the Massachusetts senator accused his rival of constantly ducking responsibility for his own actions.

For the fourth consecutive day, Kerry assailed Bush over the disclosure that nearly 400 tons of explosives were missing in Iraq, and said the Republican president's attempt to compare himself to John F. Kennedy was off the mark.

"When the Bay of Pigs went sour, John Kennedy had the courage to look America in the eye and say, 'I take responsibility, it's my fault,'" Kerry said, referring to a bungled invasion of Cuba in 1961. "John Kennedy knew how to take responsibility for the mistakes he made and Mr. President, it's long since time for you to start taking responsibility for the mistakes you made."

The two men raced from one Midwestern state to another in the closing days of their close, contentious campaign for the White House. The polls, ubiquitous as they were, were of little use in forecasting the outcome of the election. Over and over, they made the race out to be a statistical tie, and battleground states bush began to call.

Bush began his day in Saginaw, Mich., with an unstinting attack on Kerry.

"A president cannot blow in the wind," he said of Kerry.

"Senator Kerry has taken a lot of different positions, but he's rarely taken a stand," Bush said. "Consistency is not the senator's strong suit."



**Left:** President Bush stops to shake hands with supporters after speaking at a campaign rally at the Dow Event Center on Thursday in Saginaw, Mich. In his speech, Bush told the audience Sen. Kerry is "the wrong man for the wrong job at the wrong time."

**Right:** Democratic Presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., shakes hands and talks to members of the crowd after speaking at a rally at the University of Toledo, in Toledo, Ohio, on Thursday morning. At the rally, Kerry accused Bush of ducking responsibility for his own actions.



AP photos

Kerry campaigned first in Ohio, arguably the key to victory next Tuesday.

Kerry's crowd was raucous, so noisy that at one point he said, "I hope George Bush can hear that — that is the rumble of change comin' at him."

Kerry has turned the issue of missing explosives into a major focus of his campaign this week, and his running mate joined in.

"They had a responsibility to secure this material," Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina said on NBC's "Today" on Thursday. "It was important for securing Iraq, it was important for the safety of our troops, it was important for keeping that material out of the hands of terrorists. And what we know is, they didn't do it."

Bush sought to turn the controversy to his own advantage. He said his rival was showing a "complete disregard for the facts. Senator Kerry will say anything to get elected," the president said.

Bush's campaign surrogates rallied to his defense.

Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, said the troops in Iraq, not the president, bore the responsibility for searching for the explosives, and he said no one knows if any mistakes were made.

"John Kerry wants to pretend we do know what happened," Giuliani told "Today." "We don't know what happened. The best possibility is that those explosives

were gone even before the troops got there ... at least it's an equal possibility. John Kerry hasn't admitted that. Instead, John Kerry became an attack dog."

Bush was stumping in Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania, in the reverse order of a Pennsylvania-Ohio-Michigan swing Wednesday that was capped by an early evening crowd of close to 20,000 at the Pontiac, Mich., Silverdome, one of the best turnouts of his campaign. Kerry was focusing on Ohio and Wisconsin before swinging south to spend Friday in Florida.

Kerry was keeping up his drumbeat of criticism over the circumstances surrounding the explosives in Iraq.

"A political candidate who jumps to conclusions without knowing the facts is not a person you want as your commander in chief," Bush told supporters Wednesday.

Kerry retorted on Thursday, "Mr. President, I agree with you."

He then recited a list of times he said Bush had been guilty of just that.

Polls suggest Bush and Kerry are running even not only in Iowa and Michigan, but in an improbable variety of other battleground states and nationally as well. Bush pressed hard for crossover votes.

"If you're a Democrat, and your dreams and goals are not found in the far left wing of the Democratic party, I'd be honored to have your vote," he said at several appearances.

Vice President Dick Cheney said Wednesday night in Wisconsin that the terrorists and insurgents "know once those elections are held, they're out of business. They've said as much" in "communications that we've captured between Zarqawi and the bin Laden crowd."

## Bush, Kerry congratulate Red Sox on championship

The Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio — Count Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts among those Boston baseball fans who have waited a lifetime to see the Red Sox win the World Series. President Bush says he's excited, too.

Kerry, wearing a Red Sox cap as he bounded into a morning rally in Toledo, recalled someone phoning a radio show early in the campaign and saying, "John Kerry won't be president until the Red Sox win the World Series." He exclaimed, "Well, we're on our way!"

Not everybody felt that way. Boston pitcher Curt Schilling, interviewed on ABC's "Good Morning America," said, "Tell every-

body to vote. And vote Bush next week."

Bush congratulated the team's owner and president by phone — and thanked Schilling for his support.

The president watched part of the final game Wednesday night as the Red Sox defeated the St. Louis Cardinals, completing a four-game sweep to win their first World Series title since 1918, said spokesman Scott McClellan. "This is a long time coming and he shares in their excitement at winning the World Series," McClellan said.

Kerry said, "I've been rooting for this day since I was a kid ... This Red Sox team came back against all odds and showed America what heart is. In 2004, the Red Sox are America's team."

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# Floridians told absentee ballots in mail

The Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — With voters jamming phone lines saying they haven't received absentee ballots in the mail, elections officials planned to mail out thousands of replacement ballots.

As election workers and the U.S. Postal Service traded the blame Wednesday, Broward County elections supervisor Brenda Snipes moved to solve the problem with less than a week left before the presidential election by sending duplicates to people who had not returned the original ballot.

Attention focused on a batch of 58,000 Broward ballots given to the Postal Service on Oct. 7-8. Though some voters have com-

pleted and returned ballots mailed those days, hundreds of others have failed to claim their ballots. It was unclear how many absentee ballots were affected.

"This isn't a blame game," Snipes told The Miami Herald.

"What we're concentrating on is getting the ballots to the voter," she was named to the job by Gov. Jeb Bush after the 2000 elections supervisor quit during the bitter presidential vote recount and her replacement was suspended for bumbling.

Snipes estimated she would resend no more than 20,000 ballots, but about 76,000 ballots sent by her office have not been returned.

Overnight mail was to be used

to send new ballots to voters living outside the county, such as college students.

Because of the volume of calls, Broward County commissioners assigned 40 new workers to phone duty at the election office and early voting sites, where voters have been routinely waiting in line up to two hours to reach touch-screen voting machines.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement said it investigated the questions about the Oct. 7-8 mailings and found no criminal violations. Enola C. Rice, a Postal Service spokeswoman in South Florida, said absentee ballots are handled separately from other mail and are processed and delivered immediately.

People who requested absentee ballots can always vote early or on Election Day, officials said. If a voter who asked for a ballot shows up at the polls, the absentee form is flagged so only one vote counts.

In Palm Beach County, Democratic lawmakers Wednesday called on elections supervisor Theresa LePore to take out newspaper ads informing voters of their options if they do not receive an absentee ballot. U.S. Reps. Robert Wexler and Alcee Hastings, along with state Sen. Ron Klein and Mayor Lois Frankel, said they have been inundated with calls from voters who are confused about the process or who have not received their ab-

sentee ballots.

They said the ads should tell voters that they can vote early at polling places across the county.

LePore's office has received a record number of requests for absentee ballots and had mailed more than 128,000 ballots by early this week. She said an additional 7,000 go out each day.

"I have no control over the post office," LePore said.

Tony Fransetta, president of the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans, said the delays could put thousands of seniors' votes in jeopardy.

Many older Americans rely on absentee ballots because are disabled or unable to drive to the polls, he said.



Mary Sullivan sits in her new home, where she is a live-in home care provider, in Bexley, Ohio. Sullivan was homeless when she registered to vote and her registration is now being challenged by Ohio Republicans.

## Federal judge halts GOP's challenge to new Ohio voters

BY ANDREW WELSH-JUGGINS

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — One voter picks up letters at the post office because trucks kept hitting his mailbox. Another serves in Iraq. Hundreds more are homeless, listing shelters as permanent addresses.

All are among the 35,000 whose eligibility has been challenged by the Ohio Republican Party. Since mail came back undelivered, the GOP says, those registrations could be fraudulent. Democrats say the GOP is trying to keep poor and minorities, who move more often, from voting.

A federal judge put a temporary halt to the challenges Wednesday, ruling in favor of Democrats who said the GOP was targeting new voters registered by political groups supporting Sen. John Kerry, the Democratic challenger to President Bush. U.S. District Judge Susan Dlott ruled that six

county elections boards should stop hearings scheduled this week in Ohio, a hotly contested state in the presidential election.

In southwest Ohio, Republicans challenged the registration of Surjo Banerjee, a fact his brother found unusual. Banerjee, 40, is an Army sergeant who is now in Fallujah, Iraq.

Banerjee, also a veteran of the first Gulf War, uses his brother's house in Centerville as a permanent address even though he has lived around the world, said his brother, Dr. Partha Banerjee.

"He would laugh it off," Banerjee said. "He would say, 'I never get picked for anything nice why can't they give me a car or something?'"

Republicans withdrew all 2,319 challenges in Montgomery County, including the one against Banerjee, after acknowledging several mistakes in its mailing.

In suburban Franklin County, the registration of Raven Shaffer

was wrongly challenged because he gets mail at a post office box, according to the federal lawsuit filed Tuesday by Democrats. The "family's mailbox has been repeatedly hit by delivery trucks," the lawsuit said.

Also in Franklin County, 291 homeless people are being questioned out of the 2,370 total challenges, according to an analysis of the challenges by the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio. In Cuyahoga County, 757 people of the 17,717 total being challenged are homeless.

Mary Sullivan, 57, looked for work for a year after losing her job as a receptionist and prescription filler for a local drug maker in August 2003. She was evicted from her apartment after her money ran out this past June and spent two months at Friends of the Homeless, a shelter on Columbus' east side. "My vote has to be counted," Sullivan said. "Just because you're homeless doesn't mean you're stupid."

## Early ballots becoming popular with U.S. voters

BY NANCY BENAC

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans are casting early ballots in droves this year, and their reasons are as varied as their politics: Some can't wait to register their opinions. Some like the convenience.

Some just want to be left alone. In New Jersey's Somerset County, elections administrator Janice Hoffman says she's seeing more people make the extra effort to personally walk their ballots in.

"No dangling chads on mine!" a satisfied Barry Burke pronounced after voting electronically this week in Little Rock, Ark.

Whatever the voters' motivations, Democrats and Republicans alike are tracking their early voting by day and county by county, hoping to turn the early voting trend to their advantage.

"There's a basic rule here: More is better," said Charlie Baker, captain of the Democrats' early vote operation. "We are seeing, in a number of states, significantly higher vote-by-mail and early voting numbers than historically has been the case and that has to be a good thing for the Democrats."

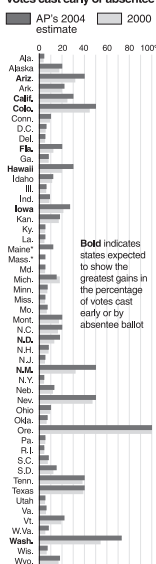
Republicans, for their part, claim their four-year-long early vote operation has been more effective at targeting sympathetic voters who might be less likely to turn out on Election Day. "What you're often seeing with the Democrats is simply the substitution of an absentee or early vote for an Election Day vote," said Bush campaign manager Ken Mehlman.

With 32 states now offering some form of early voting, an AP-Ipsos poll taken last weekend found 11 percent of voters across the United States already have cast ballots, and another 11 percent intended to beat the Election Day rush as well. Early voting is

## ELECTION 2004 Getting out the vote

This year, more voters are expected to cast their ballots early or use absentee forms than in the 2000 presidential election.

Percentage of each state's votes cast early or absentee



\* 2000 percentage not available for Maine and Massachusetts; all voting is done by mail in Oregon

particularly popular in the West, with half or more of all votes likely to be cast early in states such as Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Washington.



The moon, seen in four different photographs, is partially covered by the Earth's shadow during Wednesday's lunar eclipse in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The four photographs were taken from (left) at 10:21 p.m., 10:30 p.m., 10:56 p.m. and 11:28 p.m., Buenos Aires time. The next such eclipse will be in March 2007.

## Earthlings savor eclipse

BY SARAH BRUMFIELD

The Associated Press

**BALTIMORE** — The Earth's last total lunar eclipse for nearly two and a half years didn't disappear.

Baltimore resident Davis Sherman visited the Maryland Science Center with his 15-year-old son for the event, which began Wednesday about 9:15 p.m. EDT and was expected to last around three hours and 20 minutes.

"It's a spectacular show," Sherman said.

Tony and Carline Cazeau of Columbia brought their two daughters, Gabrielle, 12, and Valerie, 8, to the science center for the educational experience.

"It looks like chocolate," Valerie said.

With the Earth passing directly between the sun and the moon, the only light hitting the full moon was from the planet's sunrises and sunsets, resulting in an orange and red hue. Visitors at the science center's Crosby Ramsey Memorial Observatory peered at the moon through its telescope.

Jim O'Leary, senior director of technology, IMAX, at the Science Center's Davis Planetarium, said there are usually two or three lunar eclipses a year, but there won't be any in 2005 or 2006.

"This one is a particularly long one," he said.

Inside the science center, Baltimore Astronomical Society President Darryl Mason projected the images from a powerful telescope

onto a screen for passers-by to see. He said he hopes the eclipse helps introduce more young people to astronomy.

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, total lunar eclipses give scientists a chance to assess the quality of Earth's atmosphere. Ash from volcanic eruptions, for example, can make an eclipsed moon look much darker. The recent eruptions of Mount St. Helens in Washington were not expected to affect the eclipse because they consisted of far more steam than ash.

The last total lunar eclipse was May 4, but it wasn't visible from North America, NASA said.

The next total eclipse of the moon will not be until March 2007.

## Dwarf woman's skeleton could alter history of human evolution

BY JOSEPH B. VERRENGIA

The Associated Press

In an astonishing discovery that could rewrite the history of human evolution, scientists say they have found the skeleton of a new human species, a dwarf, marooned for eons in a tropical Lost World while modern man rapidly colonized the rest of the planet.

The finding on a remote Indonesian island has stunned anthropologists like no other in recent memory. It is a fundamentally new creature that bears more of a resemblance to fictional, barefooted hobbits than modern humans.

Yet biologically speaking, it may have been closely related to us, and perhaps even shared its caves with our ancestors.

The 3-foot-tall adult female skeleton found in a cave is believed 18,000 years old. It smashes the long-cherished scientific belief that our species, *Homo sapiens*, systematically crowded out other upright-walking human cousins beginning 160,000 years ago and that we've had Earth to ourselves for tens of thousands of years.

Instead, it suggests recent evolution was more complex than previously thought.

And it demonstrates that Africa, the acknowledged cradle of humanity, does not hold all the answers to persistent questions of how — and where — we came to be.



Professor Richard Roberts points Thursday to an artist impression of a hobbit-like dwarf, a discovery that could rewrite the history of human evolution in Sydney, Australia. A 3-foot-tall adult female skeleton, found on a remote Indonesian island, is believed 18,000 years old.

"This finding really does rewrite our knowledge of human evolution," said Chris Stringer, who directs human origins studies at the Natural History Museum in London. "And to have them present less than 20,000 years ago is frankly astonishing."

Scientists called the dwarf skeleton "the most extreme" figure to be included in the extended human family. Certainly, she is the shortest.

She is the best example of a trove of fragmented bones that account for as many as seven of

these primitive individuals that lived on the equatorial island of Flores, located east of Java and northwest of Australia. The mostly intact female skeleton was found in September 2003.

Scientists have named the extinct species *Homo floresiensis*, or Flores Man, and details appear in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*.

The specimens' ages range from 95,000 to 12,000 years old, meaning they lived until the threshold of recorded human history and perhaps crossed paths with the ancestors of today's islanders.

## Louisville Slugger Museum auctioning Hall of Famers' bats, artifacts of baseball

BY CHRIS DUNCAN

The Associated Press

**LOUISVILLE, Ky.** — The Louisville Slugger Museum is having a rummage sale.

A Hall of Fame-caliber collection of bats, balls, photos and other items will be up for bidding at a public auction at the museum Nov. 6. Many of the items were dredged from a warehouse and file cabinets in the basement of the Hillerich & Bradsby Co.'s downtown museum and factory, where the trademark bats are still manufactured.

"It's monumentally significant," said David Hunt, president of Hunt Auctions, the firm selected by Louisville Slugger to organize the event. "It's not just the desirability of the items or the rarity, but for them to come straight out of H&B's archives, that makes the collection almost unequaled."

Marquee items include Louisville Sluggers handled by "Sholess" Joe Jackson, Ty Cobb, Jim Thorpe and Babe Ruth. The collection also includes a bat signed by both Ruth and Lou Gehrig, a Cleveland Indians jersey worn by Satchel Paige and a letter handwritten by Ruth with six of his signatures at the bottom.

"There are things so unique in this auction that have never been publicly sold," said David Bushing, a bat expert and authenticator. "It's going to be quite an event for collectors."

The proceeds from the auction will create a fund the museum will use to obtain other baseball artifacts, said Anne Jewell, the museum's executive director. The museum's wish list includes a complete set of bats from every season of the 500-home run club.

"It just makes sense for us to trade things, like you do baseball cards," Jewell said. "In a trade, if there's something you're lacking, you look at what you have and see if someone else might be interested in and that helps you acquire new things."

"We look at our collection and we know there are some holes in it. We need to stay fresh and vital."

The Jackson bat figures to be the auction's highlight. Cracked on the handle and worn on the

barrel, the bat has Jackson's signatures along the hitting area in bold ink. Bushing said the item will likely draw a price "deep in the six figures."

The bat was acquired from the estate of Syd Smith, a Jackson teammate and close friend. Bushing said there's no proof Jackson actually used the bat, but it is the only known one photographed by the enigmatic Jackson, who batted .356 from 1908 to 1920. Although acquired by a jury on charges he helped fix the 1919 World Series, Jackson was banned from baseball in 1921 by commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis and never made the Hall of Fame.

"I don't know if the Jackson bat is the star of the show, but it's definitely going to be in the top five," Bushing said. "The fact that it could've been used by Joe Jackson adds to the mystique."

If there was proof it was Joe Jackson's game bat — one that he used in games — with his autograph on it, we'd be talking about millions of dollars.

The Thorpe bat still has a ring of black handle tape, ball marks on the barrel and two small cobblers' nails hammered into the end.

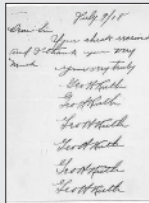
Thorpe believed the nails would strengthen the bat and had them inserted at a shoe store in Ohio.

Thorpe was stripped of the two gold medals he won at the 1912 Olympics because he had signed a semi-pro contract before the games. He signed with the New York Giants in 1913 and played in the majors for six seasons. The dates to be between 1917 and 1920.

The gem of the museum's contributions is a bat used by Cobb, circa 1911-15, with grease-pencil markings made on the side. The markings were not made by Cobb, but by Henry Morrow, Hillerich & Bradsby's receiving agent in Cobb's era.

When a player returned a bat to the factory, Morrow wrote the date, the player's name and the city or team where the bat originated. Bushing said the markings increase the bat's value, which he guessed at between \$100,000 and \$125,000.

"Side-writing in the world of bat collecting is as good as a letter of authenticity," Bushing said.



HUNT AUCTIONS/AP

A handwritten letter by

George H. "Babe" Ruth, shown in this undated photo, is one of the items to be auctioned off Nov. 6 at the Louisville Slugger Museum in Kentucky. The letter, dated July 9, 1918, was sent to Frank Bradsby of the Louisville Slugger company and includes six genuine Ruth signatures at the bottom for use on baseball bats.

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## CIB for infantry only

In regard to the letter "Support soldiers get the shaft" (Oct. 23), I and many others have problems with them receiving a Combat Infantry Badge or any combat badges of that nature. I have done many operations in Iraq while in a line company and in light infantry, and to read that letter is appalling.

The reason I say this is because in Iraq, an infantryman's day is at least 14 hours of work — and that is an easy day. Most of the time you are out in sector for 15 hours and on your forward operating base doing three hours of other work. We eat out of mermies or feed on Meals, Ready to Eat, and every now and then go to a non-infantryman's forward base and eat at a great dining facility.

Also, when the writer got shot at on one convoy, what does he think happens to us on raids, patrols, at observation points or on any time we go to cities that are hot spots? And back in the garrison, it is common to go to the field at least four months a year, running stick lanes, pulling guard, sleeping on the ground in rain, snow, and, etc., and marching — and the list goes on.

So I think it is just fine that we get a badge and support does not. Would the reader like, perhaps, that the Army have a Coast Cook's Badge with a siren and a wreath around it? I doubt that badge would come up any time soon (hopefully).

I hope all understand my feeling and I really hope this letter gets printed.

Spc. Iselle T. Healy

Forward Operating Base Omaha, Iraq

## Badge reserved for warriors

The writer of the Oct. 23 letter "Support soldiers get the shaft" said that all military occupational specialties received "the same training before we hit country, we're not underneath it all, we are all infantry, when need be, even female soldiers." Where did he go to training? I went to Fort Knox, Ky., and I was never told I was infantry "underneath it all."

There is a very good reason infantrymen are called warriors who can receive a blue cord and Combat Infantry Badge: They earned it. Few support personnel get the "joy" of riding in the back of a Bradley Fighting vehicle for eight hours in 120-degree heat. These men volunteer to put themselves in harm's way; they are not forced into harm's way, as happens to a support soldier.

How many support personnel patrol the sector, man checkpoints, execute raids, escort convoys and lead combat operation? Some, but not many. Infantrymen in this theater perform their duties, plus those of combat engineers, explosive ordnance disposal and military police.

Why do infantrymen and medics have their own badges? Has the writer ever had to perform lifesaving measures on someone, or while receiving small arms and mortar fire, or unloaded from the back of a forklift to join a firefight? Doubtful. The CIB and Combat Medic Badge are companion badges for infantrymen and medics.

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Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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ics who go to extreme measures in combat.

Infantrymen are one thing: warriors. Medics are with them to keep them alive. If anyone wants a CIB or CMB, he can always reclass and do his job. Otherwise, accept the award that is given to all the other MOSs for being in a combat zone and having the possibility of being engaged by the enemy — the combat service unit patch.

Spc. Clint McCollough

Camp Taji, Iraq

## Earn the badge — retrain

In response to the writer of the Oct. 23 letter who "Support soldiers get the shaft," Who deserves the Combat Infantryman Badge? Simply stated by Paragraph 2-6, Army Regulation 600-8-22, personnel with other than an infantry or Special Forces military occupational specialty are not eligible, regardless of the circumstances.

So, you want to earn the CIB? Do what the real infantrymen in the Army do: go to Fort Benning, Ga., and go through the 14-week one-station unit-training school. Just because you are in a support position and had two weeks of "combat" training, you deserve the CIB? The answer is no.

It is unfortunate that on your three trips to Baghdad, your convoy was hit. As I see it, from an infantryman's point of view, when you go on combat patrols, spend four weeks in a place like Najaf, Iraq, getting shot at, hit by rocket-propelled grenades, and mortared countless times, then — and of course after completing infantry training at Fort Benning — you can wear the CIB.

Being in a support position is an important job. Someone must supply the bullets and food to the real infantry soldiers, the men who have chosen to fight wars as their profession. So, as so many of your support brothers and sisters, be glad that you are not in combat every day. Take comfort in knowing that outside the wire there are infantrymen who will fight, and who will die to keep you safe.

Retrain and live the infantry life. Then, maybe, you can look at your chest and

hold your head high knowing that you are infantry.

Sgt. Jim Davis

Camp Taji, Iraq

## Equality in combat units

Regarding the article "Army ponders female role in units" (Oct. 23), I currently serve as an equal opportunity representative and conduct many classes on discrimination. Without fail, there is always someone in the group who asks why women are banned from combat arms, if men and women are "equal." Leaders at many levels attempt to tell the soldiers that it is because of menstrual cycles and other uncontrollable reasons.

The truth is, it is because Congress passed a law banning women in combat units. The reason? "Because America is not yet ready to watch women die in combat." Well, women do die in combat, regardless of whether they are in combat units or support companies. We have proved that here in Iraq with 24 female deaths since March 2003.

So what about it? The Army has a policy that prohibits discrimination based on race, gender, national origin, creed, etc. In my time in the Army, I have watched many soldiers be relieved from a position for discriminating against soldiers of the opposite sex. I agree, people need to be free of discrimination and unfair treatment in the work force. But if we say that women cannot serve in combat arms units, then we are also saying that men and women really aren't equal and that the entire equal opportunity program is simply a formality, a joke.

If a woman wishes to serve in combat arms, she should be afforded that opportunity. These people who stand up and oppose women in combat and then say "but men and women are not equal" are nothing but hypocrites. If men and women are "equal," then make it "equal" across the board, rather than creating exceptions to the rule.

If the Army is going to enforce a standard, enforce it across the board, top to bottom. Quit telling soldiers they are equal, then treating them differently.

Staff Sgt. Ross Eastman

Camp Taji, Iraq

## Thanks to dining staff

I am currently assigned to Camp Victory, Iraq. (Recently), due to mission requirements, I had seven personnel who did not send away my crew. Instead, they made sandwiches for us and made us feel very welcome. I would have understood if they had been bureaucratic and sent us away — they would have been within their right. I and my crew would like to say thanks to them for being team players and supporting us.

Master Sgt. Evan Wynn

Baghdad

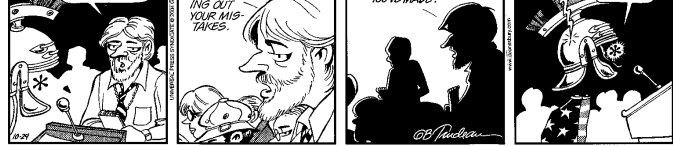
## BY GARRY TRUDEAU

SIR, THE ONLY MISTAKE YOU'VE MADE IS NOT FAR IS MAKING A FEW APPOINTMENTS. YOU REGRET...

IN OTHER WORDS THE ONLY MISTAKE YOU MADE WAS APPOINTING A FEW ALIENS WHO MADE THE MISTAKE OF POINTING OUT YOUR MISTAKES.

SIR, ARE YOU SURE THERE'S NOT A SINGLE OTHER MISTAKE YOU MADE?

STILL, WE'RE MAKING ON IT. A JOBS PRO-GRASS...





## OPINION

## The 'real job' is keeping Heinz Kerry quiet

BY MICHAEL GOODWIN

New York Daily News

In the spirit of the Kerry campaign official who declared Vice President Cheney's lesbian daughter "fair game," let us turn to the question of whether John Kerry's wife is fit to be first lady.

The issue is "fair game" because of how Teresa Heinz Kerry is behaving. Already wildly unpopular — her approval rating is an anemic 30 percent — she did the political equivalent of mooning her neighbors last week by insulting first lady Laura Bush. Said Heinz Kerry in an interview: "I don't know that she's ever had a real job — I mean, since she's been grown up."

The incident, including a quick apology for forgetting Bush was a teacher, librarian and full-time mother, was a one-day wonder because Laura Bush brushed it off. But it was not an isolated event. It fit a pattern Heinz Kerry established with a series of breezy putdowns and oddball rants.

There was the blast at the "scumbags" who criticize her, the claim that "only an idiot" wouldn't like her husband's health care plan and her goofy suggestion that Caribbean hurricane victims "go naked for a while" until food was delivered.

My favorite came on her recent visit to Nevada to discuss health care. The 40-minute speech, per her usual rambling, it's all-about-me style, included her remedy for arthritis: "You get some gin and get some white raisins — and only white raisins — and soak them in the gin for two weeks. Then eat nine of the raisins a day."

Got it — not eight raisins, not 10 raisins,

nine.

She's a fan of Botox, Armani and Chanel, calls herself "cheeky" and "sexy," but Kerry aids have heart palpitations every time she opens her mouth. Even some New York backers are concerned.

"We could have a bona fide head case as first lady," said a supporter.

"She's weird," says another. "She looks like she's on Prozac or something." Radio man Don Imus, as usual, said what others can't. A Kerry supporter, Imus wondered whether Teresa is "too crazy to be first lady."

I've been wondering myself. After watching her on several occasions and after following her antics on the trail, I've concluded she's not crazy. She's a rich, spoiled brat.

And because she's so rich — a billionaire, with five houses, a private jet and income of perhaps \$50 million a year — she is used to being feared by the help and flattered by supplicants who hope she'll sprinkle a few pennies their way. The recipient of much bowing and scraping naturally begins to feel wise, even superior.

Arrogance is thus born.

Arrogance is what former Texas Gov. Ann Richards spotted in a privileged George H.W. Bush. The former president, Richards said, woke up on third base and thought he'd hit a triple.

But Heinz Kerry's arrogance is different. Worldly and intelligent, she exhibits a presumptuousness that recalls 19th-century robber barons who believed their wealth proved they were divinely blessed, and that the poor, too, got what they deserved.



Speeches she's given, including at the party's Boston convention, were mostly about her, as if her life is inspiring. She has a habit of lecturing, skips from topic to topic and tends to speak quietly, so you'll just have to listen harder.

Not to worry — there's not much to hear. Her story, striped of hyperbole, comes to this: She was the child of privilege, and now she is the adult of privilege. Her doctor father was rich and so was her first, late husband. All her money is

inherited.

After her marriage in 1966 to John Heinz, heir to the ketchup fortune, she quit her job as a translator and settled into the pampered world of the super-rich.

So she hasn't had a real job for 40 years.

Oh, yes, she does give away Heinz money. She calls herself a philanthropist. Not exactly a job ordinary Americans can relate to. Or a first lady.

## On balance, Kerry's military philosophy more fair

BY JOHN B. QUIGLEY

COLUMBUS, Ohio  
On defense policy, John Kerry doesn't have to do much to look better than President Bush.

Our current president surrounded himself with ideologues committed to controlling the world. He blurred the line between keeping the country safe and promoting corporations that profit from the resources of other countries.

Backed by this crew, dubbed the "neo-cons," Bush espoused a new and dangerous doctrine of attacking other countries well in advance of an actual attack on the U.S. The invasion of Iraq on proxy information shows how easily this doctrine can be manipulated.

John Kerry, as a senator, has generally voted for defense spending.

But he says he will use military force only when it is seriously necessary to protect the country. He voted to authorize Bush to invade Iraq but criticizes Bush for misusing intelligence information and failing to gain the support of key allies.

President Bush now tries to justify his invasion of Iraq by saying that he is successfully fighting terrorism by taking the war to the place where terrorists are. Kerry, more plausibly, says that terrorism in Iraq has been generated by our occupation.

Despite President Bush's focus on terrorism as a defense priority, he is still fighting the Cold War. His multimillion-dollar program to build a missile defense system, both on the ground and in space, is aimed at a threat from Russia that probably does not exist. Whether the missile defense system would even stop incoming missiles is an open question.

Kerry, as a senator, has voted funding for missile defense but does not view it as the priority that Bush does.

"We cannot afford to spend billions," he said on the stump, "to deploy an unproven missile-defense system. Not only is it not ready, but it's the wrong priority for a war on terror where the enemy strikes with a bomb in the back of a truck, or a vial of anthrax in a briefcase."

The Iraq invasion has made the United States less safe. By bringing the United States into disrepute, especially in the Middle East, President Bush has left us more vulnerable to attack. More people are willing now to give up their own lives to attack U.S. targets. Beyond this circle of activists stand millions who support them morally and financially.

Simply by avoiding the belligerence that characterizes Bush, Kerry can reduce anti-U.S. hatred and thus the risk of attacks.

Kerry has made a point of saying that he will try to reduce anti-U.S. hatred. However, Kerry will have to avoid Bush's strong tilt in favor of Israel in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict if he wants to improve the U.S. image in the Middle East. To date, Kerry has given little indication he would do anything different from Bush on Israel-Palestine.

One issue that generates anti-U.S. resentment on which Kerry might do better than Bush is abuse of prisoners by our troops. President Bush whitewashed the atrocities at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad as the acts of a few "bad apples" among our troops. Bush ignored internal memoranda

that prove that the signal to torture came from the top of our defense establishment.

Bush has a record, from his Vietnam days, of opposing atrocities. He is a better bet than Bush to deal appropriately with a situation like Abu Ghraib.

As to the welfare of our troops, Kerry is attuned to the hardships that military action brings to service personnel and their families.

Bush calls them heroes but does little to ease their burdens.

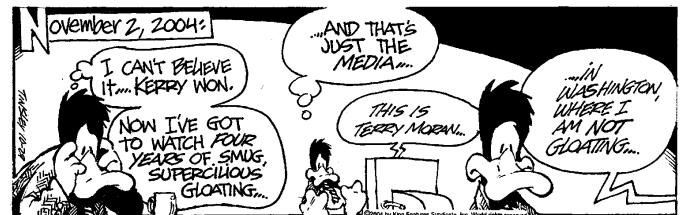
Both candidates say they would not institute a military draft, but Kerry's promise is more credible, since he would be less likely to commit troops to unnecessary wars.

Bush's sorry record on defense wasn't the result of a plan to make an opponent look good. But it does.

John B. Quigley is a professor of law at Ohio State University.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



## IN THE WORLD

## Skepticism surrounds EU Constitution signing

## Referendums in nine nations puts overall ratification in jeopardy

BY ROBERT WIELAARD

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — In ancient Rome, traitors were tossed off the city's Capitoline Hill. It is on that very site that 25 European leaders plan to sign the EU constitution on Friday — and they can only hope the document isn't destined for a similar, ignominious fate.

The charter is supposed to take effect in 2007, but uncertainty hangs over the EU's future shape amid doubts that Europeans are prepared to accept closer integration.

The challenges facing a united Europe were underscored in dramatic fashion Wednesday, when incoming EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso withdrew his entire team for a vote before the European Parliament as it became clear that the proposed commission was heading for a humiliating rejection.

To take effect, the constitution must be ratified by the legislatures of all EU states in 2005 and 2006. It's a tricky prospect, given that at least nine countries — Denmark, Spain, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Czech Republic and Britain — plan to put the constitution to a referendum.

A single 'no' would stop the EU constitution in its tracks.

The charter lacks the sweep and grandeur that Euro-idealists had hoped for, and falls short of setting up the massive superstate Euro-skeptics feared. But in allowing for an EU president and foreign minister and offering a series of mechanisms for streamlining decision-making, it amounts to a key step forward — after the recent monetary union — toward integration.

European leaders approved the charter last June, after 28 months of difficult, often acrimonious negotiations. Its principal aim is to provide simpler voting rules to end decision gridlock in a club that ballooned to 25 members this year and plans to absorb half a dozen more in the years ahead.

The constitution will be signed Friday in the same room — the Sala Degli Orazi e Curiazi —



Incoming European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, right, waits before addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, on Wednesday. Barroso withdrew his proposed 24-member executive team from consideration by the European Parliament on Wednesday, realizing he faced an unprecedented rejection.

of a Renaissance palazzo where the leaders of France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg signed the EU's founding Treaty of Rome on March 25, 1957.

In the long term, the leaders' key challenge will be to explain the merit of ever more European integration to an increasingly skeptical European public.

Last June's European Parliament elections were a shocker: They revealed a streak of

Euro-skepticism even in economically struggling countries that joined May 1 and had experienced decades of communist rule. Euro-skeptic candidates all did well in Lithuania, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Poland.

The constitution simplifies complex decision-making by requiring that, starting in 2009, measures can only be adopted if at least 15 countries representing at least 65 percent of the EU's 455 million population agree.

## Signing gives leaders chance to discuss Barroso's team

The Associated Press

ROME — Guarded by thousands of police, official delegations began arriving Thursday for the signing of the European Union's constitution, but turmoil over the proposed EU commission clouded the ceremony.

The ceremony will be mostly pomp and circumstance. But it will also give EU leaders the chance to consult only two days

after EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso was forced to withdraw his entire team for a vote before the European Parliament. The proposed commission was heading for a humiliating rejection.

"I will certainly have useful contacts and indications then," Barroso told Italian paper La Repubblica in an interview published Thursday.

Barroso withdrew his team Wednesday amid opposition in the European Parliament to justice commissioner-designate Rocco Buttiglione, a conservative Italian who riled lawmakers by declaring at his confirmation hearing that homosexuality is a sin.

He has also been criticized for his conservative views on women and marriage.

Barroso then said he would

make the necessary adjustments to his team and hoped to resolve the impasse within the next few weeks. He did not elaborate.

One of the first to arrive was the outgoing EU Commission President Romano Prodi, who was told by Pope John Paul II that the impasse over Buttiglione should be resolved with "reciprocal respect in a spirit of goodwill." Buttiglione is a conservative Catholic and confidant of the pope.

## Rome shoring up security for EU ceremony

BY ALESSANDRA RIZZO

The Associated Press

ROME — Roman landmarks including the Colosseum and the Roman Forum will be closed, streets will be blocked off to traffic and thousands of police will be on patrol Friday as part of massive security measures for the signing of the European Union's proposed constitution.

The ceremony takes place on the Capitoline Hill in the heart of Rome. Hundreds of dignitaries were expected in the city, including heads of state and government of the bloc's 25 member states and four candidate states.

The city's center was already under tight security on Thursday.

Trash bins were removed in and around the area and manholes were welded shut. Some streets were sealed off to private vehicles, while parking was not allowed in many streets and piazzas.

Hundreds of policemen were patrolling tourist attractions such as the Circus Maximus. Already closed to the public was the Vittoriano museum near Piazza Venezia, currently hosting a Degas exhibit, and the Bocca della Verità, the marble disc representing a human face with an open mouth that, as legend has it, chomps off the hands of liars.

The Roman Forum will be closed later Thursday and the Colosseum will shut its doors Friday, city officials said.

In total, about 5,000 police and paramilitary Carabinieri forces will be employed to protect the VIPs, news reports said.

Air travel will also be affected. The Ciampino Airport, which usually serves many low-cost companies, will be shut down until Saturday. At Rome's main Leonardo Da Vinci airport traffic is expected to be reduced by at least 30 percent on Friday, while the air-space over Rome will be closed to private aircraft.

The Circus Maximus will be turned into a landing space for helicopters carrying the dignitaries, according to Rome newspaper Il Messaggero.

## Trio of election officials kidnapped by gunmen in Afghanistan

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Armed men kidnapped three foreign election workers as they drove in a clearly marked white United Nations vehicle in the Afghan capital on Thursday, U.N. and Afghan officials said.

Britain's foreign minister said one of the victims held dual British-Irish nation-

ality. A second was a Filipino diplomat, the government of the Philippines said. The third was believed to be from the Balkans.

U.N. spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva confirmed the abductions but declined to identify the victims. Taliban rebels have in the past kidnapped foreigners, and the U.S. Embassy had issued a warning earlier this month that abductions might be attempted surrounding the Oct. 9 presidential vote.

Abdul Hadi Qasemi, an Afghan working for U.N. security, said the three were stopped and abducted by five gunmen.

An Afghan government official said the driver, who was left behind, told investigators that a black four-wheel-drive vehicle with tinted windows pulled in sharply in front of the U.N. car.

Several uniformed men got out and accused the driver of cutting them off at the previous corner, the official said on condi-

tion of anonymity. They then forced the foreigners into their car, which turned around and drove off. The driver was beaten, he said.

On Thursday afternoon, U.N. security staff rang the white vehicle, found on a dusty street near an office of the joint U.N.-Afghan electoral body set up to oversee the vote.

The car, clearly marked with the world body's initials, had its doors locked and there was no sign of any struggle.

# U.S. envoy lists worst weapons proliferators

N. Korea, Iran and Syria singled out as areas of concern

BY KENJI HALL  
The Associated Press

**TOKYO** — The top U.S. envoy for arms control named North Korea, Iran and Syria among the worst proliferators of weapons of mass destruction Wednesday, and called for shipments to the countries to be monitored more closely.

"North Korea, Iran and Syria, among others, are clearly states of proliferation concern," U.S. Undersecretary of State John Bolton said in a speech at The American Center in Tokyo.

Bolton is visiting Japan to observe multinational exercises, held under President Bush's Proliferation Security Initiative, or PSI, aimed at training troops to identify weapons of mass destruction at sea.

He said countries involved in the exercises "should be ready to scrutinize shipments going to or from such states or terrorist groups."

Nine ships from Japan, the

United States, Australia and France joined the exercises off Tokyo that began Tuesday. The maneuvers, the first in East Asia and the first hosted by Japan, have been criticized by nearby North Korea as a "provocation."

Bolton also called China a country that "engages in outward proliferation," and said Washington is working to persuade Beijing to join the counter-proliferation network.

"China says it still has questions about PSI," he said. "We think that we can make progress and explain to China that lost business opportunities that result from not selling weapons of mass destruction components are not lost economic opportunities. They are means by which China can make not only the rest of us safer but can make China safer as well."

Bolton's reserved his harshest words for North Korea.

"Without a doubt, North Korea remains the world's foremost proliferator of ballistic missiles and

related technology to rogue states and hostile regimes," he said.

"All countries participating in PSI are sending a message to rogue states like North Korea: Get out of the proliferation business or risk having your cargoes of terror interdicted, regardless of whether you ship them by land, by air or by sea," Bolton said.

On Wednesday, North Korea's official news agency, KCNA, denounced U.S. criticism as a "smear campaign" to destabilize the divided Korean Peninsula and take over Asia. Previously, the North had derided Bolton, a longtime critic of the exclusive regime, as "human scum."

Eleven similar drills have been held since last September, when Australia hosted the first exercises in the Coral Sea after the initiative was formally backed by 11 nations.

The next drill, to be held in the Caribbean next in November, will be the first to practice boarding and searching ships from treaty partners, such as Panama and Liberia, Bolton said.



Nabli Abu Rdenneh, right, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's senior adviser, talks outside Arafat's headquarters with an unidentified man, in Ramallah on Thursday. An ailing Arafat performed prayers before dawn Thursday, but his condition remained serious.

## Doctors debate about hospitalizing Arafat

BY LARA SUKHITIAN  
The Associated Press

**RAMALLAH, West Bank** — An ailing Yasser Arafat performed Muslim prayers before dawn Thursday and ate a light breakfast, but his condition remained serious and Israeli security officials said he would be moved from his headquarters to a nearby hospital.

However, Arafat's top adviser, Nabli Abu Rdenneh, said doctors examining the 75-year-old Palestinian leader Thursday were still deciding whether he needs to be hospitalized. Arafat has been confined by Israel to his compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah since 2002.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, in a telephone conversation with his Palestinian counterpart, Ahmed Qureia, agreed to allow Arafat to be flown abroad for treatment if necessary. However, Israeli security officials said the Palestinians have only requested, for now, to take Arafat to a local hospital.

On Wednesday evening, Arafat's persistent two-week illness took a sudden turn for the worse. He vomited after eating soup, then collapsed and was unconscious for about 10 minutes, a bodyguard said.

Aides urgently summoned doctors from Jordan and Egypt, and Arafat's wife, Suha, was en route to the West Bank from Tunis. Suha Arafat lives in Paris, and has not seen her husband since 2001.

Arafat performed pre-dawn prayers and later had coniflakes for breakfast, said Monib

al-Masri, a longtime friend who visited him Thursday.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said doctors arriving from abroad, including teams from Jordan and Egypt, would decide whether Arafat needs to be moved from his headquarters to a hospital.

Arafat has been confined to the sandbagged, partially demolished compound for more than two years. He has been kept inside both by occasional Israeli military blockades and by threats that he would not be allowed to return if he leaves.

Israeli security officials said Thursday that Israel is ready to guarantee Arafat's return should he seek treatment abroad.

Arafat's health crisis has highlighted how unprepared the Palestinians are for their leader's death, making a chaotic transition period all but inevitable. Arafat has refused to go through a successor, fearing an impatient protégé could turn on him.

Arafat has been ill for two weeks, but reports about his ailment have varied widely — from the flu to speculation by Israeli officials that he has stomach cancer. Two of his doctors said Wednesday a blood test and a biopsy of tissue from his digestive tract showed no evidence of stomach cancer.



Arafat



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## Quake rocks Romania

**BUCHAREST, Romania** — A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.0 shook Romania and other countries in the region, the Earth Physics Institute said, causing panic but no immediate reports of injuries or serious damage.

Wednesday night's quake was centered in Vrancea, 110 miles northeast of Bucharest on the eastern rim of the Carpathian mountains, the center said. It struck at 11:34 p.m. and was felt in several other Romanian cities,

including Iasi, Bacau and the capital, where it knocked out telephone service.

The institute initially said the quake had a magnitude of 5.8, but later revised the estimate to 6.0.

The quake also was felt in Turkey, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine.

Stefan Tataru, of the earthquake service in Vrancea, told private Realitatea TV that after-shocks were not likely.

No injuries or damage were reported, the country's civil protection agency said.

From The Associated Press

## Not-so-public access

**IN** INDIANAPOLIS — Government officials routinely broke or skirted Indiana's open records law, which makes public records available to anyone, a review by eight newspapers found.

Reporters presenting themselves as citizens visited government offices in all 92 counties to see how readily officials turned over such records.

Results were better than a similar audit seven years ago, and some journalists obtained public records easily. But others were intimidated, questioned repeatedly, put off for days or mistakenly told they needed a court order or subpoena.

Rush County Sheriff Jim Owens threatened to jail a reporter if he continued to "intimidate my staff," the review found.

Reporters and editors in August tried to obtain 368 public records from crime logs and reports, public employee salaries and court files of sex offenders. Only 11 counties granted all four documents within 24 hours.

## Who's in charge?

**DC** WASHINGTON — More than three years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, local officials in the nation's capital do not know what might lead the federal government to take control of public safety efforts in a future emergency.

"It's been unclear since 9/11 and we've been talking about it since then," District of Columbia Mayor Anthony A. Williams said.

Williams was among officials who testified at a D.C. Council Judiciary Committee hearing into command and other jurisdictional issues stemming from the district's huge federal presence.

With more than 1,250 federal offices buildings and 175 foreign diplomatic missions located in the district and its nearby suburbs, several local jurisdictions could have their response plans subordinated to federal control.

"There has got to be a level of understanding about who's in charge," said Richard Ben-Veniste, a former member of the 9/11 Commission.

The panel, established by Congress and named by President Bush, was charged with examining the terrorist attacks and making recommendations to Congress.

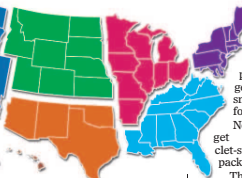
## Return of Ms. Subways

**NY** NEW YORK — Miss, er, Ms. Subways rides again.

For the first time in 28 years, New York City's 220-mile underground rail network has a human face, that of Caroline Sanchez-Bernat. The 29-year-old actress edged out three other contenders for the title of Ms. Subways, a promotion revived for the transit system's centennial celebration this week.

Sanchez-Bernat was crowned Ms. er, Miss America-style with a tiara and sash at Ellen's Stardust Dinner, owned by Ellen Hart Strum, a 1959 Miss Subways.

The new winner's photo will be posted in the subway, just as were those of the 300-plus women who



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

held the title between 1941 and 1976.

## Chemical weapons charge

**TN** JACKSON — A man who authorities say hated the federal government was charged with attempting to acquire chemical weapons, explosives and weapons of mass destruction with the intent to attack official buildings.

Demetrius "Van" Crocker, 39, was characterized by U.S. Attorney Terrell Harris as having "hated for the government, and anti-Semitic and racist views." Crocker is accused of attempting to obtain sarin nerve gas and C-4 explosives, according to a federal complaint filed.

Crocker was arrested Monday after an undercover federal agent met him to deliver fake explosives and what Crocker believed were ingredients for sarin, considered one of the world's deadliest chemical agents.

## New deer hunting gun

**WI** DEERBROOK — A deer hunter in Wisconsin is marketing a new type of chewing gum he claims can mask human-smelling breath and help hunters move closer to their prey.

Neil Brett says his Gum-o-Flage

helps fool the animals' hypersensitive noses to human scent.

Hunters already can use special soap, shampoo and clothing detergent to eliminate human smell. Some even pay \$300 for scent-control coveralls. Now, for \$4.99, hunters can get 12 olive green, Chicle-style tablets in a blister pack.

The idea came seven years ago when Brett, a gun hunter since boyhood, began going after deer with a bow and arrow. That meant hunting at closer range, and Brett took precautions to eliminate his human odor, including wearing carbon-lined clothing that was kept sealed in plastic bins with pine boughs.

Deer still picked up his scent. He turned to his brother and then dental student Nicholas, who suggested the problem might be his breath.

## Murder-suicide probed

**MA** LOWELL — A Dracut husband allegedly shot and killed a man and seriously wounded his estranged wife before he committed suicide, investigators said.

Barry Strykowski, 48, apparently went to the Lowell home of his estranged wife, Diana Strykowski, shot her once, and shot her companion, Jaroslav Stepanec, several times, according to the Middlesex district attorney's office.

Investigators are treating the incident as a murder-suicide.

Strykowski was pronounced dead at the scene. He had a gun-shot wound to the head.

Diana Strykowski, 44, was being treated at Boston Medical Center. She is expected to survive, authorities said.

Stepanec, 51, was pronounced dead at Saints Memorial Medical Center in Lowell shortly after police arrived at the home, responding to a report of a possible fight.

## Drive for five to vote

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — The Southwest Voter Registration Project has cooked up a good idea to drive young Hispanic and American Indian voters to the polls this Election Day.

Get five people to vote, win a shot at a car.

"We're not rewarding voters, we're rewarding volunteers who get voters to the polls with a chance to win. So far, it seems to be getting attention," Southwest Voter president Antonio Gonzalez said of the "Take 5 and Drive" giveaway.

The contest — sponsored by Southwest Voter in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Nevada — gives volunteers who take five friends or family members to the polls a chance to win a 2005 Ford Mustang.

An estimated 20,000 brochures in New Mexico were sent out advertising the giveaway, and the contest Web site already had more than 20,000 hits.

Gonzalez said the names of voters submitted in the contest will be confirmed after the election by checking voter logs and making phone calls. Both political parties aren't complaining.



## Moon over Massachusetts

Mount Holyoke in Hadley, Mass.

The moon rises above the Summit House atop



## Frozen jack-o'-lantern

Some Halloween decorations in Truckee, Calif., are shown with a coating of snow. A powerful Alaskan storm swept across California this week, flooding homes in San Francisco, cutting power to thousands and leading to a record-breaking snowfall in the Sierra.



## Fall foliage

church in East Bridgewater, Mass.

The orange leaves of a maple tree stand out against the white clapboard steeple of a



## Hanging on

Ripe tomatoes are seen in a field in Camarillo, Calif. The winterlike storm that drenched California fields last week hurt the tomato harvest and contributed to a mounting national shortage that has doubled prices at many stores.





## Overdue visit

The USS Constellation shoots confetti as it departs the Baltimore harbor for a visit to the U.S. Naval Academy. The historic voyage marks the first time the USS Constellation has traveled beyond the Key Bridge since arriving in Baltimore in 1955 and her first return to the Naval Academy in more than 110 years.



## Hose down

Bristol firefighters battle a house fire at 48 Oakland Street in Bristol, Conn.



## Stylish pups

Cody, a terrier, left, and Casey, a shitzu, model outfits by E&E Hallstrom Haute Couture, a high-end clothing company for dogs in Hartsdale, N.Y.



## Still on the line

Pacific Gas & Electric workers spend time working on the power lines in Bakersfield, Calif., as the clouds started to move in before a rain storm hit.

## Actor arrested in beating

**NY** SOUTHAMPTON — An actor playing a stressed-out soldier in a local stage production was arrested after he punched his leading lady in the face and then beat up the director backstage just before a scheduled performance, police said.

Witnesses told police that Brian Raber, 27, appeared to be playing his character when he began to hit the 17-year-old actress, who was hospitalized in serious but stable condition.

Raber was ordered held on \$100,000 bail at his arraignment on two counts of assault in the attacks at the theater on Long Island. He has pleaded not guilty.

Witnesses told police that Raber, who had starred for several weeks in "Home Front," about a soldier coming home from war, punched Bianca Massi for no apparent reason at the Historical Society Playhouse.

Police said the director, Toni Munna, 51, was beaten when she stepped in to help Massi, who suffered a fractured cheek and eye socket. Munna was treated for facial bruises.

## Catholic Charities CEO

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — Catholic Charities USA named the Rev. Larry Snyder, executive director of Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, as the national organization's next president and chief executive officer.

"I feel extremely gratified to have been tapped for this position, especially for such an accomplished and highly esteemed organization," Snyder said in a statement. Snyder will start the new job Feb. 1.

Snyder will replace the Rev. J. Bryan Hehir, who served as president of the group from September 2001 until December 2003, when he returned to Boston for a job in the archdiocese there.

Catholic Charities USA, based in Alexandria, Va., is a national network of more than 1,400 Catholic Charities agencies.

## Train derail

**MI** DETROIT — A train carrying a flammable liquid derailed in a residential neighborhood, and hundreds of people were evacuated along with three schools, officials said. There were no reports of injuries or illness.

Nine of the CN freight train's cars left the tracks and some overturned, authorities said.

Four of the nine derailed tank cars contained methanol, which is used as an antifreeze and is flammable. Some liquid reportedly leaked from the train, but fire officials described the leak as minimal.

CN spokeswoman Gloria Combe said the leak was quickly contained. The cause had not been determined.

About 1,500 students were evacuated from three schools. By late Monday, all evacuated residents were allowed back in their homes, Combe said.

## Students succeeding

**SC** WEST COLUMBIA — More than three-fourths of high school sophomores passed the South Carolina's new and more rigorous exit exam on their first

try. Education Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum announced the results for 47,338 students who took the tests this past spring, measuring skills in English, reading and math. The old exam was based on an eighth-grade level of education.

## Bat study funded

**TN** KNOXVILLE — The University of Tennessee has received nearly \$4 million to study bats.

The National Science Foundation grant will enable scientists to conduct two studies, one on the benefits bats have on agriculture and the other on rabies in bats in the wild.

## Seal deaths puzzling

**ME** PORTLAND — Scientists investigating high mortality rates of seals say no fast answer has emerged.

Reports of stranded seals have slowed to normal rates in recent weeks, but researchers continue to search for clues about what happened to the harbor seals last summer in Maine.

"We're peeling the onion, but we're still finding more layers," said Greg Early, a Massachusetts researcher and one of the leaders of the federal team investigating Maine's seal deaths.

The mystery began in July with a surge of calls to the Northeast Marine Animal Lifeline. The Westbrook-based network rescues sick or injured seals, tests and examines them and nurses the animals back to health. The calls continued at an unprecedented pace through August, says Greg Jakush, founder of the lifeline.

"We're at case 766 right now for the year," Jakush said. "Our average is 350 to 375 per year."

## Electronics recycle, too

**DC** WASHINGTON — The city's public works department staged a semiannual electronics recycling event in Rock Creek Park.

Residents of the district, northern Virginia and suburban Maryland brought obsolete computers, televisions and stereo equipment. The event was aimed at preventing the items from being discarded with regular solid waste and sent to landfills.

## Plans for city park

**NY** NEW YORK — Union Square Park, which has undergone a series of renovations recently after suffering years of neglect, will undergo more improvements starting next autumn, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

The \$14 million redesign, which will focus on the north side of the 165-year-old park, will expand the park's two existing playgrounds into a single playground; introduce a year-round restaurant to replace a seasonal outdoor restaurant; and refurbish the plaza that holds the Union Square farmer's market.

The farmers market will remain open during construction.

The project will be the final phase of the reconstruction of the park. The southern portion of the park was rebuilt in 1986, and the southwest portion was renovated in 2002.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

# FACES

## Pregnant Roberts visits hospital

A pregnant Julia Roberts was hospitalized after experiencing a series of early contractions. People magazine reported. The actress was accompanied by her husband,



Roberts

Danny Moder, when she was admitted to an undisclosed hospital. The contractions eventually stopped, but she remained under observation. People reported, citing unnamed sources.

Roberts' New York-based publicist, Marcy Engleman, declined to comment.

The 36-year-old movie star is expecting twins — a boy and a girl — in early January.

People said Roberts' condition wasn't serious, but that her doctors had advised bed rest until her due date.

## Magazine rates Bush a villain

Readers of a British magazine have rated President Bush the year's top screen villain, for his appearance in Michael Moore's documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11."

Bush beat out a shortlist of fictional film bad guys, including the nefarious Doctor Octopus, played by Alfred Molina, in "Spider-Man 2"; cannibalistic Leatherface in "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre"; Andy Serkis' creepy Gollum from "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy; and the eye-patch-wearing assassin played by Daryl Hannah in "Kill Bill: Vol. 2." Almost 10,000 people voted in the poll, conducted by Total Film magazine.

## Latifah could have bared it all

Had things worked out differently, it might have been Queen Latifah in "Monster's Ball" instead of Halle Berry.

The rapper-singer-actress says she was slated to play the lead in the movie that netted Berry the Oscar for best actress in 2002.

Berry was the first black to ever win an Oscar in that category.

"I actually had that role before Halle. But they couldn't set it up. It would have been me, Sean Penn and Robert De Niro," Latifah said. Instead, the low-budget drama starred Berry, Heath Ledger and Billy Bob Thornton.

Would Latifah have taken it all off for the role, as did Berry, for the movie's explicit sex scene?

"You wouldn't take it role without knowing what was there already," Latifah cautiously answered.



Queen Latifah

## Kojak back — in slightly different form

Ving Rhames has signed with USA Network to a weekly series of "Kojak," debuting in March. Bonnie Hammer, president of USA Network, said Tuesday. Filming begins in Toronto in January.

Production wrapped in August on a two-hour original movie, which will now serve as the premiere episode.

Ray Savalas starred as the stylish, crime-dome Lord 1973-78. Latifah in the police drama, which aired from 1973-78.

## King creates list of pet peeves

Stephen King has compiled his list of Pet Peeves of 2004, with "annoyance levels" that range from minor headache to head-splitting migraine.

King writes in his Entertainment Weekly column that although pop culture is full of pleasures, it also has its share of annoyances.

"For every petted, talented Elisha Cuthbert, there is a Paris Hilton (and her little dog, too)."

By exposing his own annoyances — "in all their triviality" — he hopes to encourage readers to speak of their own pet peeves. King writes in the magazine's Oct. 29 issue.

The list includes pop star Britney Spears, who rates a minor headache, real estate mogul and "The Apprentice" star Donald Trump, a moderate to severe headache (due to unavoidable come-over), and ads before theatrical movies, a head-splitting migraine.

Stories and photos from wire services



LATIP

The Futureheads are a British band in the vintage art-punk vein. Their debut record will come out in the States on Oct. 26. Left to right in rear: Jeff Jaff, Barry Hyde, and Dave Hyde. In front with glasses is Ross Millard.

# Futureheads rock onto the U.S. music scene

BY SUSAN CARPENTER

Los Angeles Times

The working-class city of Sunderland, England, is home to 50 bars, two strip clubs and zero movie theaters or rock venues, placing it exactly nowhere in the minds of most Americans, or Brits for that matter.

But that's likely to change thanks to a quartet of young lads known as the Futureheads, a group whose "naughty and abrasive" music, as one of the members describes it, is among the most innovative and exciting in the growing post-punk scene.

Never heard of them? No worries. If the world is a just place, they should be everywhere soon enough. The Futureheads make some of the smartest, most fun avant-punk around.

Judging from reactions at the group's first L.A. show at Spaceland last month, the Futureheads have nothing to worry about when it comes to finding an audience. First, the club was packed, even though the group's debut record had not washed up on American shores.

Second, more than a few folks in the ordinarily motionless, been-there, done-that crowd even danced. Danced! "The reaction was a little bit more than we expected," Ross Millard, the band's bookish-looking guitarist-vocalist, said the next day on the group's tour bus. "In cities that are famous for having a burgeoning music scene, you expect people to be a little more standoffish at gigs... but it was like playing a show back where we're from. It was the same atmosphere, and the crowd — there was an intimacy there. We could relax on stage."

"Relaxed" isn't the word that comes to mind when seeing the Futureheads perform. The group played with the wound-up intensity of a coiled spring, unleashing its manic energy through quick blasts of guitar that stopped on a dime and harmonized, cuckoo-clock vocals as each of the band's four members popped in and ducked out of songs for a word, phrase or stanza.

Just two songs in, their tight-fitting dress shirts already were showing sweaty signs of their lightning-fast playing and high-energy performance. Forty-five minutes later, said shirts were in desperate need of a wringing.

If the set were any longer, you'd swear the group would pass out from fluid loss, but with youth, there is stamina. And the group is young — made up of Millard, 22, and his "best mates" Jaff, 22 (bass), and brothers Barry and David Hyde, 23 and 19 (lead vocals/guitar and drums, respectively).

Friends before they came together as a band in 2000, the

group had met a couple of years earlier at the Sunderland City Detached Youth Project, a music program for at-risk youth in the down-and-out northeastern city that was once supported by coal mining and shipbuilding — industries that closed up shop long ago.

"Our horizons weren't particularly broad," said Millard, who's one of the group. It fits the stereotypical profile of kids drinking on street corners or stealing cars; each was a musician with another band, simply taking advantage of the free practice space.

They got together as the Futureheads after their respective groups had split up. A few months of practice in Barry's garage yielded a handful of tunes and their first gig — four songs performed in seven minutes at the local cricket club.

"Our horizons weren't particularly broad," said Millard, his British accent thick as clotted cream. "We just thought, 'Well, we'll get a couple of songs together and we'll play some shows in front of our friends,' and then you just gradually take it from there."

After a year of playing to the same hometown crowd of 15 at various bars and basements, they ventured to nearby Newcastle, where they played at the local university and opera house. Then came a tour of Europe and a string of "squat clubs" in Germany and the Netherlands.

Until that tour, David wasn't in the band, Peter Brewis was drummer. But when Brewis opted out of traveling, David took his place.

It was at that point that the band really jelled. The group got back home and wrote and recorded their first four songs, including two songs that also appeared on their album debut, "Robot" and "Stupid and Shallow" are among the record's standouts — their fast-paced, staccato harmonies and asymmetrical rhythms defining the group's sound, which teeters on the edge of art rock but ultimately lands in pop territory.

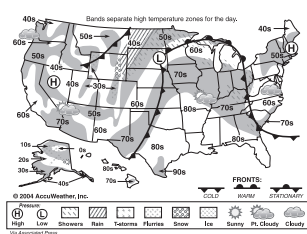
Performing songs off the single in London, the Futureheads were snapped up by Fantastic Plastic, an independent label that released two more singles by the group. Those singles went on to receive such rave reviews in the English media that the group was soon signed to an even bigger label, 679 Recordings — the British affiliate of Sire, which is releasing the band's debut this side of the Atlantic.

The group's stock continues to rise. The Futureheads just wrapped their first North American tour, opening for Scottish favors Franz Ferdinand. They'll play the Troubadour in Hollywood on Nov. 20 as part of their first U.S. headline tour.

In the meantime, they're just relaxing in Sunderland, where they plan to stay, even though shops close at 4 and, David says, "There's absolutely nothing to do but go and eat and drink."







# Scheduled to ETS or DCS?

Check our Relocation Guide  
every Saturday to find  
Realtors at your new station.

STARS AND STRIPES  
Your Hometown Newspaper



# Horoscope

Much is accomplished early on, but the afternoon feels like a big waste of time. Where did the hours go? Well, maybe we all need the mental break before a perfectly fitting evening. The Gemini moon brings an energetic social hum — no more embarrassing lulls in the conversation or awkward moments of deciding what to do next.

Joyce Jillson



## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 29)

This will be your most fabulous year to date! You'll start by planning a trip somewhere you've always wanted to go. You'll wonder why you didn't do this sooner. Love connections grow stronger as you create more experiences with loved ones. Money in December gives you the means to do it. Love signs are Pisces and Taurus.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You're ready to change the way you are seen in the eyes of the world. An emotional outburst might occur in the process, but it's nothing to avoid. This show of passion will actually help a relationship in the long run.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You have to think much to know what you're doing next. In-stinct and desire take over, and before you know it, you're on your way to getting what you want.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21)**, it's super lucky to let the world know your plans. That may be all you have to do to get things rolling, as it's extremely easy to gather momentum with the stars on your side.

## CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You'll analyze your feelings, eager to come to definitive conclusions — but there are no definite conclusions. Think of your current situation as a work in process instead.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**, A child, parent or spouse is feeling needy right now. The problem is, so are you. Instead of trying to outdo one another to see who's got it worse,

recognize that by giving your full attention to someone else, you are also helping yourself.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Changes in workplace procedures could complicate your life. First, accept that this one is out of your hands. Make do as best you can, or find a new work situation.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Embrace your unique power, and everyone around you will benefit. When the scales tip against you, regain balance by focusing on what makes you special.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

There's no sense getting angry with someone who didn't keep his or her word. What is anger going to accomplish for you, other than to add fuel to an already explosive situation? Just let it go. Forget that promise was ever made.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

The heat is on. It seems like you've been waiting for this moment for months, maybe even years. You can dazzle with the best of 'em, so don't hold back. A higher-up is watching and secretly rooting for you.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance anyway. Where would we be now if Capricorn had been too afraid to tell the world that the sun was at the center of the solar system? Don't worry what others think.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

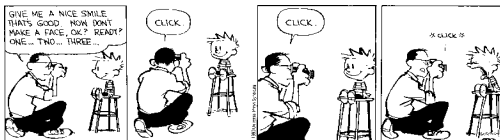
Beware of strangers bearing gifts or news that seems too good to be true. There's more here than meets the eye. Also, be sure to set some boundaries with that overbearing co-worker.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You and loved ones need to reconnect on some common ground. Talk about the tough issues. Whether it's where to go on your next vacation or when to start a family, you need to be flexible and find a compromise.

Creators Syndicate

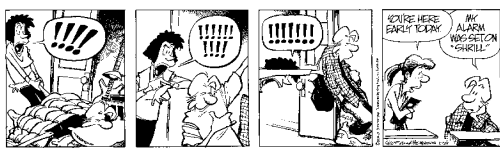
## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



## Zits



## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



## Red and Rover



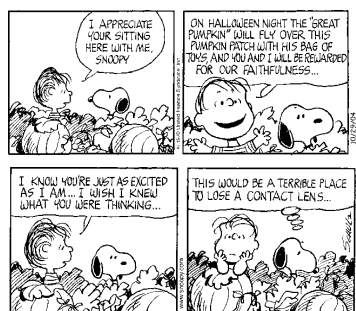
## Better or Worse



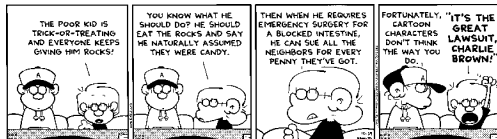
## To our readers

For the past decade, this column has been written by Joyce Jillson and Holiday Mathis. Ms. Jillson passed away on Oct. 1. Becalmed by Jillson and Ms. Mathis wrote in advance, columns they prepared will run through Nov. 6. Beginning Nov. 7, the horoscopes will be re-named "Horoscopes by Holiday" and will be authored by Ms. Mathis.

## Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



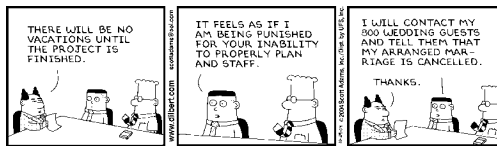
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



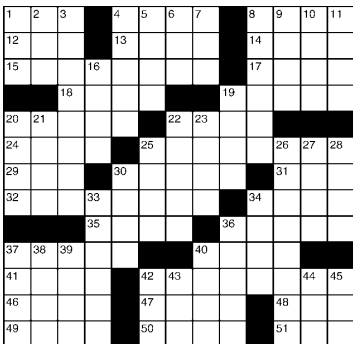
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Foundation
- 4 Some of the kin
- 8 Parks or Bonheur
- 12 "When We Were Kings" subject
- 13 Small combo
- 14 Without end
- 15 Vicinity
- 17 Tallow source
- 18 Earl Grey's family?
- 19 Crowbar
- 20 Baffle
- 22 Really eager
- 24 Arthur Maser's instrument
- 25 Its days are numbered
- 29 Scepter topper
- 30 Impressive setup
- 31 Stock-report abbr.
- 32 Callahan's portrayer
- 34 Attention getter
- 35 Kate Hudson's mom
- 36 Can't stand
- 37 Tale
- 40 Actress Spelling
- 41 Senate employee
- 42 A measure
- 46 Emulation
- 47 Exam format
- 48 Demure
- 49 Undo a dele
- 50 Indiana city
- 51 Priouette pivot

## Down

- 1 Evil
- 2 Yale student
- 3 Bother
- 4 Backpack part
- 5 Fleur-de-lis
- 6 Pen name?
- 7 Drunkard river
- 8 Quit
- 9 Egg
- 10 Appear
- 11 Bohemian
- 16 Office part-timer
- 19 Baby kangaroo
- 20 Old woman's home?
- 21 The O'Hara estate
- 22 "Hammerin' Hank"
- 23 Pleased
- 25 Boast
- 26 Clear
- 27 Basilica section
- 28 Deteriorates
- 30 On the road
- 33 Indication of doom
- 34 Brazilian
- 36 With passion
- 37 Resorts international?
- 38 Lacking slack
- 39 Monster
- 40 Despot
- 42 Poach
- 43 401(k) alternative
- 44 Bill's partner
- 45 Keep tabs on

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 10-29

## CRYPTOQUIP

HQ EVJ QJUUE OJAAVGB  
SNVSVUTBR STFCE, H  
OJAAVOR EVJ SVJUC OTE

EVJ\*GR ZRNHFC ZTGO.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TWO FISHERMEN FRIENDS STARTED CHATTING BUT ENDED UP OPENING A BIG CAN OF WORMS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals C

# Internet deviancy not acceptable

**Dear Abby:** I am 36 and "Vito," my significant other, is 44. I recently learned that he has been posing as a woman on a Internet swingers' site. He sends people naked photos of a girl — and once I found a picture of a naked man. (Not him.)

One of his objectives is to recruit couples for a threesome, and I believe he is also doing cybersex. When I confronted Vito, he said it was just a joke. But it isn't the first time he has done this, and it is very hurtful. Abby, Vito is sneaky, passive-aggressive and an alcoholic. I have always believed if you had to hide something from your partner or spouse, it was cheating. Is cybersex cheating?

—Blondie in Daytona Beach  
**Dear Blondie:** Yes, cybersex is cheating. When someone hides something from a spouse or partner, it's usually with the knowledge that the spouse or

partner would disapprove. Now, I have a question for you: *Why are you wasting your time with someone who sneaks around looking for other sex partners? Romances like yours don't have happy endings. Be smart. Get checked for STDs and call it quits with Vito.*

**Dear Abby**



**Dear Abby:** My younger brother, who is 53, recently lost his job. His wife has never worked. They have spent their life traveling, driving expensive cars and entertaining lavishly. They never saved a nickel.

I, on the other hand, have always lived frugally. My wife and I put our kids through college, we live in a modest home, drive older cars and have never vacationed outside the United States. We have saved diligently and plan early retirement in a year or two.

My mother and sister think we

should help my brother and his wife out by lending them money that we know will never be repaid. My brother has put me down for my thirty ways, saying I could be tomorrow, then what good would all that money be? Well, tomorrow is here. My wife and I are prepared for whatever life may deal us in the future. Mom and Sis are angry that we refuse to give money to my brother and his wife. They made their bed — now they can lie in it. Abby, please tell me if I'm right.

—Able But Unwilling in Alabama

**Dear Able:** Your philosophy of financial planning has paid off, while your brother is now paying dearly for failing to provide for his future. Far be it from me to raise Cain with your money decision, but if you felt comfortable, you wouldn't be asking me to endorse it.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>  
Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SYKAH  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

URRYC  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

QUOMES  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

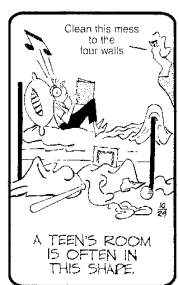
BLUEBB  
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Print answer here: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Yesterday's Jumbles: FRAME CHESS VERBAL DIMINO  
Answer: What the KING reduced when he sold the royal crowns — HIS "OVER HEAD"

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Angiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

# A few tips for airline etiquette

**Dear Annie:** I am a huge fan of your column and would like to respond to "F/A in Toronto" the flight attendant who said a passenger clipped his nails while she served orange juice. I travel a lot. People seem to forget everyday courtesies the moment they walk through airport security. On a recent flight, the woman sitting next to me changed her baby's dirty diaper on the plane between us.

Please print these guidelines for our fellow travelers: 1. Don't be afraid to use the washrooms on the plane. Teeth flossing, nail clipping, make-up application, nasal sprays, tweezing and changing diapers should be done in private. We don't want to watch you.

2. By all means, remove your shoes, but please, keep your feet on the ground. No one wants to smell them.

3. Treat the people in the middle seat with respect. Don't grab

**Annie's Mailbox**



both armrests. 4. Be mindful that not everyone wants to be engaged in conversation. While you might be an interesting person, some of us prefer to work or sleep. 5. If you have children, please don't run up and down the aisle screaming. It's OK to tell your child to stop kicking the seats and making noise.

6. Please don't push when exiting the plane. This is aggravating and dangerous. And to the flight attendants: We know how hard you work, but please, when you see people doing inappropriate things, help us out. Thanks.

—Ottawa, Ontario  
**Dear Ottawa:** Thanks for your sensible suggestions. We hope they help.

**Dear Annie:** I was annoyed with the letter from "Had It with PC," who is delighted when

waitresses call him "Hon" and "Dear." He says we should lighten up.

My mother is 84 years old. All her nurses at the assisted-living home call her "Sweetie" and "Hon," even though they know her name.

It is condescending to treat a woman her age as though she were 3 years old and anonymous. I'm 55 and hate when women 20 and 30 years younger call me "Hon."

I notice these young women don't call each other by such names.

Whatever happened to "Sir" and "Ma'am" when addressing strangers of an older generation?

I have a Name  
**Dear Name:** Some people don't like those terms either, because it makes them feel old, but in your doubt, it's best to err on the side of politeness.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



10-29

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"Grandma said in her day the only things they pierced were their ears."

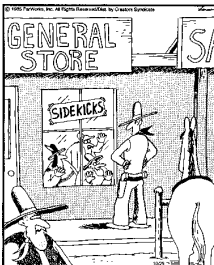


Demis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur







# RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

## Air NASCAR

### Hendrick tragedy shows risks inherent to racing aren't just at the track

By Mike Harris  
The Associated Press

A fleet of private planes known as the "NASCAR Air Force" has made travel easier for drivers and teams. But Sunday's crash that killed 10 people flying to a race aboard a Hendrick Motorsports team plane showed such convenience also can involve risks.

"We use planes just like our cars," said Ricky Rudd, one of several NASCAR Nextel Cup drivers who are also pilots. "We put a lot of hours in the air and have some of the best pilots in the country that fly these things, and some of the best equipment."

The backbone of the NASCAR air fleet has been two-engine, 12-passenger aircraft like the Beech 200 King Air that crashed into the side of a mountain in thick fog Sunday while trying to land at a small airport near Martinsville Speedway in Virginia.

Those aboard were killed, including team owner Rick Hendrick's son, Ricky, his brother, John, and John's two daughters, Jennifer and Kimberly. Also on the plane were the team's general manager, Jeff Turner, and its chief engine builder, Randy Dorton, as well as Joe Jackson, an executive with DuPont. Scott Laubram, 38, a pilot for NASCAR driver Tony Stewart, and pilots Richard Tracy and Elizabeth Morrison.

For years, nearly everyone traveled back and forth to the races in team vans or private cars, but the proliferation of private planes has changed that.

Nextel Cup teams race 38 weekends each year, including two all-star events. On many of those weekends, the Concord, N.C., Regional Airport — the closest airport for most teams — is buzzing with activity. More than 100 aircraft — helicopters and airplanes — take off and land, ferrying drivers, team owners, crewmen, sponsors and fans to airports near the racetrack.

More aircraft, including a pair of 727 jets owned by Roush Racing, fly in and out of nearby Charlotte Douglas International Airport. "Actually, it's not just race weekends," said Annette Privette, a spokeswoman for the city.

*Nextel Cup teams race 38 weekends each year, including two all-star events. On many of those weekends, the Concord, N.C., Regional Airport — the closest airport for most teams — is buzzing with activity.*

of Concord. "Our airport has approximately 200 aircraft based there and about 60 percent of them are NASCAR-related. There's a lot of flying back and forth to testing and pole nights and driver appearances and races."

"It's convenient because the teams, obviously, want to spend as much time with their families



AP photos

Above, NASCAR driver Mark Martin pulls his jet out onto a runway in this 1998 photo. So many drivers have private planes that they're often called the "NASCAR Air Force." But the convenience of air travel isn't without risks, as shown by Sunday's crash that killed 10 people flying to a race aboard a Hendrick Motorsports team plane. An aerial view of the wreckage from that crash is shown at the bottom right.

as possible." Petty Enterprises driver Jeff Green sees private plane travel as more than just a convenience.

"Taking the chance on being delayed in an airport just won't work," Green said. "You have to be there Friday morning for prac-

for your sponsors and your team — you just don't have much choice."

Mark Martin, another driver who is also a pilot, lost his father, stepmother and half sister in 1998 when a private plane his father was piloting crashed in Nevada. But Martin said he has no qualms about continuing to use his plane.

"I suppose we've been pretty lucky in a way," Martin said in an interview last year. "But everybody knows that flying is still safer than driving in your personal car. And we really have no choice. We have to fly to get our jobs done."

With the escalating use of helicopters — for short hauls — and private planes, NASCAR's Air Force has a very good safety record.

SEE AIR NASCAR ON PAGE 32



### Race 33: Bass Pro Shops MBNA 500, 6:30 p.m. Sunday CET, AFN-Sports.

Last race: Jimmie Johnson's win in the Subway 500 in Martinsville, Va., was marred by the news that a plane owned by his team, Hendrick Motorsports, crashed in thick fog en route to the race, killing all 10 people aboard, including the son, brother and two nieces of owner

Rick Hendrick. The Hendrick team also includes Jeff Gordon, Terry Labonte and Brian Vickers.

Last year: Jeff Gordon held off a strong challenge from Tony Stewart and won the Bass Pro Shops MBNA 500. The event was suspended one day because of rain.

#### DRIVERS TO WATCH

**Dale Earnhardt Jr.** who barely missed out on the title to third place in the standings, off is second only to Kurt Busch in points. Earnhardt Jr. has a three-team race record since the Cup title.

**Jimmie Johnson** who barely missed out on the title to third place in the standings, off is second only to Kurt Busch in points. Earnhardt Jr. has a three-team race record since the Cup title.

**Bobby Labonte** who barely missed out on the title to third place in the standings, off is second only to Kurt Busch in points. Earnhardt Jr. has a three-team race record since the Cup title.

#### FAST FACTS

Kurt Busch finished fifth at Martinsville and built his lead in the championship standings to 96 points over Jeff Gordon. Dale Earnhardt Jr. won the Golden Corral 500 at Hampton on March 14. No driver has swept both races in Atlanta since Bill Elliott in 1992. Ryan Newman won his series-high seventh pole at Martinsville. None of the remaining championship contenders has an average finish better than 10th at Atlanta.

#### POINTS RACE

After 32 of 36 races

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 1. Kurt Busch         | 6,015 |
| 2. Jeff Gordon        | 5,919 |
| 3. Dale Earnhardt Jr. | 5,890 |
| 4. Jimmie Johnson     | 5,808 |
| 5. Mark Martin        | 5,791 |
| 6. Tony Stewart       | 5,769 |
| 7. Elliott Sadler     | 5,760 |
| 8. Matt Kenseth       | 5,755 |
| 9. Ryan Newman        | 5,749 |
| 10. Jeremy Mayfield   | 5,651 |
| 11. Jamie McMurray    | 4,053 |
| 12. Dale Jarrett      | 3,856 |
| 13. Kevin Harvick     | 3,809 |
| 14. Bobby Labonte     | 3,761 |
| 15. Casey Mears       | 3,755 |
| 16. Michael Waltrip   | 3,464 |
| 17. Jeff Burton       | 3,448 |
| 18. Rusty Wallace     | 3,428 |
| 19. Sterling Marlin   | 3,416 |
| 20. Greg Biffle       | 3,358 |

#### BUSCH SERIES

This week: Aaron's 312 at Hampton, Ga. (Tape-delayed, 9 a.m. Sunday, AFN-Sports).

Last race: Martin Truex Jr. extended his points lead by holding off Greg Biffle in a green-white-checkered and winning the Sam's Town 250 at the Memphis Motorsports Park. Truex, who has six wins this season, is now 206 points ahead of Kyle Busch.

Last year: Greg Biffle passed Michael Waltrip for the lead with 10 laps left to win the Aaron's 312.

Fast facts: Busch has not won since posting consecutive victories at Indianapolis and Michigan in August, a span of seven races. Mark Martin is expected to make his fourth Busch start of the season this weekend. He has three wins and six top-10 finishes in nine career appearances with the series at Atlanta.

Next race: Bashas' Supermarkets 200, Nov. 6, Avondale, Ariz.

#### CHAMP CARS

Busch series and in a truck after taking the Kroger 200 in Martinsville, Va. Next race: Chevy Silverado 150, Nov. 5, Avondale, Ariz.

Last race: Bruno Junqueira spoiled his teammates' bid to clinch the championship by winning the Lexmark Indy 300 in Australia. Sebastian Bourdais finished second and will take a 22-point lead over Junqueira into the season-ending race Nov. 7 in Mexico City.

#### FORMULA ONE

Last race: Juan Pablo Montoya won in his final race for Williams-BMW, beating future McLaren teammate Kimi Raikkonen in the Brazilian Grand Prix.

Next race: Nov. 7, Mexico City.

#### INDY RACING

Last race: Helio Castroneves picked up his first win in 19 races by taking the season-ending Chevy 500 at Texas Motor Speedway. Series champion Tony Kanaan finished second and became the first driver in any major series to complete every lap of a season.

# NCAA places Mississippi St. football on probation

BY JOEY MCCREARY  
The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi State's football program was placed on probation by the NCAA for four years, stripped of eight scholarships over the next two seasons and banned from postseason play this season because of recruiting violations.

The NCAA announced Wednesday that its infractions committee found two former assistants and several boosters broke recruiting rules between 1998-2002. But alle-

## School stripped of eight scholarships next two seasons

gations of Mississippi State conducted against former coach Jackie Sherrill were dismissed.

Sherrill retired after the 2003 season and was replaced by Sylvester Croom. The Bulldogs (2-5) won their first Southeastern Conference game under Croom, the first black head football coach in SEC history, last Saturday when they upset Florida.

The NCAA's decision came two months after Mississippi State ex-

pected it.

"The uncertainty is gone," Croom said. "We can move forward and move our program in the direction we want it to go. ... We will not, under my watch, be in this situation again."

Thomas Yeager, chairman and commissioner of the NCAA committee, said the historical significance of hiring Croom was "immaterial to our conclusion," but credited Mississippi State for "cre-

ating a new atmosphere surrounding rules compliance."

"There is a new direction with the program. ... Simply changing coaches does not necessarily mitigate [that] the committee will look favorably on that kind of personal action," Yeager said.

"In this case, it was a positive evaluation."

The Bulldogs are allowed just 81 football scholarships for the 2005 and 2006 seasons, and are

limited to 45 expense-paid recruiting visits in each of the 2004-05 and 2005-06 academic years — 11 per year fewer than the maximum allowed by the NCAA.

Mississippi State in April admitted to secondary rules violations with the football program, but denied the more serious NCAA allegations of offering to provide cash and other perks to recruits.

The school had limited itself to 83 scholarships in the 2005-06 academic year as part of a self-imposed penalty — down from the NCAA maximum of 85.

## Brown big addition in Georgia backfield

5-foot-8 freshman teams with Ware to give Bulldogs another threat at running back

BY CHARLES ODOM  
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Thomas Brown heard the doubters long before he arrived in Athens. In fact, some of the cynics were in his hometown.

The 5-foot-8, 185-pound Brown signed with Georgia even though many believed he would be too small to play tailback in the Southeastern Conference. Others thought Georgia already had enough tailbacks and Brown would get pushed to the back of the line or assigned another position.

Even some of his new teammates had their doubts — until the first practice in full pads.

"You thought he was smaller and not as fast, but as soon as you try to stop him you know he's a special talent," said safety Thomas Davis, one of Georgia's hardest hitters.

After projected starter Gregg Lumpkin sustained a season-ending knee injury during the first practice, Brown quickly moved up Georgia's depth chart.

Brown passed veterans Michael Cooper, Tony Milton and Tyson Brown and finally claimed the first starter Danny Ware — also a freshman — for the top tailback spot.

Ware is expected to start for No. 10 Georgia in Saturday's

game against Florida, but Brown has earned unofficial co-starter status with back-to-back 100-yard games against Vanderbilt and Arkansas.

The 6-1, 212-pound Ware is regarded as a punishing runner. But Brown has won over his doubters with his surprising power and relentless style.

"It's just how he runs," Georgia coach Mark Richt said. "That's what we saw on tape and even in our early scrimmages. He's just a tenacious runner. He's very powerful for a guy his size."

Richt says Brown has a similar build and style as Atlanta Falcons tailback Warrick Dunn, who played at Florida State when Ware was the Seminoles' offensive coordinator.

"He's built so low to the ground, he has good balance," Richt said. "A lot of guys don't really accelerate on contact. A lot of guys slow down when contact comes. He bursts into it, not necessarily to take a guy straight-on. He'll try to make a guy miss but he will keep his legs driving when a lot of guys will stop."

Brown, who is as effective running inside as on toss sweeps, is durable enough to take 25 or more carries in a game, though Richt says he prefers to utilize Georgia's depth at tailback.

Ware (506 yards rushing) and Brown (412) each rank among the SEC's top 10 rushers.



Georgia running back Thomas Brown (20) has rushed for over 100 yards the past two weeks in games against Vanderbilt and Arkansas.

So much for the doubters. "Even people in my high school, in my hometown, were questioning 'Why come to Georgia when they have all those tailbacks? You're never going to play,'" said Brown, out of Tucker High School near Atlanta. "I had to come here and work hard and prove myself."

Running behind offensive linemen whose average size is 6-6, 300 pounds, Brown can be difficult for defenses to spot.

"I think my size is a great advantage," Brown said.

Brown may have been a surprise earlier in the season for Georgia (6-1 overall, 4-1 SEC), but he has become known around the league after rushing for 80 or more yards in four games. Brown led Georgia with 23 carries for 107 yards in the Bulldogs' 20-14 win over Arkansas last week.

Brown had a season high in carries last week after Ware was slowed by a lung infection that de-

veloped from a bruised lung sustained earlier in the season.

Richt said Wednesday that Ware has a clean bill of health.

Richt called the competition for the starting job between Ware and Brown a "close race." They each topped 100 yards against Vanderbilt, giving Georgia two backs with 100 yards rushing in the same game for the first time since 1992, when Garrison Hearst and Mack Strong each reached the mark against South Carolina.

Georgia didn't have a 100-yard rusher in 2003, but Brown and Ware already have combined for five 100-yard games this season.

The freshmen are emerging as a strength at a time stopping the run has become a concern for Florida.

Mississippi State's Jerious Norwood rushed for 174 yards and two touchdowns in State's 38-31 upset win over Florida last week.

Florida ranks only seventh in the league in rushing defense.

## BCS to field offers from TV networks

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Bowl Championship Series could have a new television home for the 2006 season.

ABC has had the broadcast rights to the BCS since 1998, when the system for crowning a college football champion was formed by the Big East, Big 12, Big Ten, Southeastern Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference and Pac-10.

The current contract runs out after the 2005 season.

ABC and the BCS have been negotiating a new contract since September, but have been unable to a deal deal. When the exclusive negotiation period ends next week, BCS officials will open the bidding to other networks.

"We're looking at quite a number of alternatives next week, and there's a good level of interest," Kevin O'Malley, television and marketing consultant to the BCS, said Wednesday.

Talks between the BCS and ABC are still alive, though.

"They still want to be very much in the mix," O'Malley said. "We want to have them in the mix."

BCS coordinator and Big 12 Commissioner Kevin Weiberg said, "All of our options remain open to us, including reaching an agreement with ABC."

O'Malley and Weiberg declined to identify the other networks interested in acquiring the rights.

## Even if he wants to, Spurrier return to Florida hardly a done deal

BY MARK LONG  
The Associated Press

GAINESSVILLE, Fla. — All the trophies Steve Spurrier brought to Florida still line the hallways inside Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

Six Southeastern Conference championships, two Heismans and a national title.

Spurrier's legacy remains — and it always will.

He gave the program its first Heisman Trophy in 1966, its first SEC title in 1991 and its only national championship in 1996. He

coached the Gators to 122 victories over 12 seasons, tormented opponents with his offensive flair and witty one-liners, and left town with the best winning percentage in league history.

So if Spurrier wants to coach at Florida again, is there anything that would prevent his return? Maybe.

"Everybody thinks it's a done deal. It's not a done deal. It's a slam dunk," said Tommy Donahoe, president of Gators Boosters Inc., which raises money for the

school's athletic programs.

"Spurrier can't just ask for the job and get it. There's certainly a contingency out there that wants him back, but there also are people upset with some of the things he did before."

For everything Spurrier would seemingly return to Gainesville — credibility, victories and championships — he also brings some baggage.

Many fans are still upset over the way Spurrier left Florida. He called athletic director Jeremy

Foley off his beach house and dropped the news in the middle of the recruiting season.

His recruiting dropped the last few years — he admitted he left the "cupboard somewhat bare" — and he wanted to limit the number of stops he made on the annual tour of "Gator Clubs."

Speculation about his return has even prompted concern about his age (is 59 older than ideal?) and his motivation (will he leave again for the NFL?).

Would players, fans, boosters,

Foley and school president Bernie Machen be willing to trade potential for the chance to restore the Gators to the national elite? Would they be silly not to?

As for Spurrier and Foley, the AD says the relationship hasn't soured.

"Steve Spurrier and I were friends before he was the head football coach at the University of Florida, we're friends today and we'll be friends forever," Foley said. "Did we always see eye to eye and stuff? No, but our friendship has never been better."

# WR Boldin set to make season debut for Cards

The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Anquan Boldin went through a full workout in pads Wednesday and said there's no doubt he'll play in Sunday's game at Buffalo.

## NFL briefs

"For the past couple of weeks, my goal has been to get back on the field without any setbacks... any swelling or any pain," he said. "I think I've reached that goal right now."

Boldin, last season's NFL rookie of the year, will be upgraded to probable on Thursday, coach Dennis Green said.

Green said that if Boldin is active for Sunday's game, "he'll play a significant amount."

Boldin has been sidelined since his right knee locked up during training camp on Aug. 10. He underwent arthroscopic surgery to repair torn cartilage.

Boldin missed a season at Florida State with an injured left knee, and that helped him understand what it takes to come back.

"Just be patient. I think that's the most important part — work hard and be patient," Boldin said. "You can't come back too soon because you'll just end up getting hurt again."

**Hobbled Tomlinson expects to play against Raiders**  
SAN DIEGO — LaDainian Tomlinson missed practice

## NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis, (see Saturday's edition for complete injury report provided by the league).  
**Punters:** CB Stephen Davis (knee) will not play Sunday. WR Steve Smith (bruised chest) out for season.  
**Raiders:** CB Charles Woodson (hip) status uncertain. QB Frank Middleton (torn quadriceps) out for rest of season.  
**Redskins:** LB Lavar Arrington (knee, hip) doubtful. K John Hall (groin) doubtful.  
**Sentinels:** WR Bobby Engram (ankle) doubtful. LB Isaiah Kacybynny (ankle) doubtful.  
**Titans:** QB Steve McNair (bruised chest) questionable.



LaDainian Tomlinson has missed parts of San Diego's past three games with a strained groin.

would play Sunday.

Moss was limited in practice and left early to get treatment for his hamstring, which he injured Oct. 17 in New Orleans. Tice sounded optimistic about Moss' recovery.

"He did really everything we wanted him to do and probably a little bit more," the coach said.

Moss made a token start last Sunday against Tennessee to keep his consecutive games streak alive at 102. He's expected to have a bigger role against this weekend against the Giants.

## Redskins rookie Taylor arrested on drunken-driving charge

ASHBURN, Va. — Washington Redskins rookie Sean Taylor was arrested Wednesday on charges of driving under the influence and refusing a breathalyzer test.

Taylor was pulled over by a Virginia state trooper at about 2:45 a.m. EDT, on Washington's Interstate 495. The officer suspected Taylor had been drinking, and Taylor flunked some field sobriety tests, according to Virginia State Police Lt. Harry Nevlin.

Taylor was held for several hours in the Fairfax County Jail and released on an unsecured bond at about 10 a.m. He is due in court Dec. 1. A first offense is punishable by up to one year in prison and/or a \$2,500 fine.

# 49ers' first-round picks struggling

By GREG BEACHAM

The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The San Francisco 49ers insist their salvation will arrive through the draft.

The hope years of bad contracts, unlucky injuries and salary-cap woes can be erased through solid choices in April.

The trouble is, the 49ers' record in restoring their roster isn't much more impressive than their 1-5 mark this season — particularly when it matters most.

San Francisco has made 10 first-round picks in the past 10 years. Only six are with the team, and not one has played a significant role for the 49ers this season.

Linebacker Julian Peterson and cornerback Mike Rumph are out for the year with injuries, while cornerback Ahmed Plummer, defensive end Andre Carter and left tackle Kwame Harris have been limited by less-serious injuries.

Receiver Rashaun Woods, the top pick in last April's draft, is stuck as the 49ers' No. 5 receiver, still playing catch-up after getting hurt during training camp.

And except for Peterson, who became an All-Pro linebacker last season before his contract holdout and subsequent heel injury, none of the 10 first-round picks has been as good as the 49ers hoped.

"There are no classes in college that you can take to prepare you for being a first-round draft pick in the NFL," said Harris. "There are always more expectations in that position, and there's nothing you can do about it."

The 49ers love to tout the exploits of a roster stocked with more of their own draft choices than nearly any other team — but those choices haven't added up to a competitive team this season.

San Francisco, which plays at Chicago on Sunday night, has its worst record after six games since 1979.

Sure, there have been several

stellar picks by the 49ers in recent years. In fact, you could argue that the 49ers have more success in the seventh round of the draft than the first.

Quarterbacks Tim Rattay and Ken Dorsey, starting offensive linemen Kyle Kosier and Eric Heitmann, tight end Eric Johnson and even long-snapper Brian Jennings were final-round gems.

But the team's first-round picks — the ones who command the most money and scrutiny — haven't been much help in keeping the 49ers out of the cellar.

San Francisco had two total busts in the late 1990s — quarterback Jim Druckenmiller and defensive tackle Reggie McGrew — and a near-bust in receiver J.J. Stoker, who hung around for eight years on the strength of his unrealized potential.

They drafted cornerback R.W. McQuarters in 1990, but traded him to the Bears before he developed into a dependable player.

Since then, San Francisco has picked six players who are works in progress — though there's no common theme to their various struggles and setbacks.

None has more work to do than Woods, quietly expected to be a major contributor to the 49ers' offense this season after coming with the No. 1 overall pick. Instead, he has struggled to adjust to the speed and precision of the pro game, and now finds himself far down the bench.

"I know the expectation to eventually come out and do well and justify where they picked me," Woods said.

His struggles have been among the most dismaying to the 49ers, who hoped the 6-foot-7 tackle would be entrenched as the offensive line's leader by now. Last winter, they got rid of Derrick Dester to pave the way for his ascension.

But Harris has been hurt for much of the season, and he still shows up on many highlight films failing to block a pass-rusher steamrolling Rattay or Dorsey.

# Redskins are accurate Election Day predictors

By JOSEPH WHITE

The Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — This election season, Washington Redskins cornerback Fred Smoot has a predicament faced by many NFL players: a Democrat's background and a Republican's income.

"They turn Republican. I see it all the time," Smoot said. "It all goes back to changing your economic value."

Smoot, a black from modest means in Mississippi, has decided to choose his roots over his pocketbook. He is supporting John Kerry for president.

"When you go into a higher tax bracket, all of a sudden you don't want to vote for this candidate because he's going to raise taxes," Smoot said. "I thought about it. I'm not going to solely

vote for this candidate just because he's going to be a couple of dollars and it not turn out to be the best thing for me or my country."

That, however, presents Smoot with another dilemma: For Kerry to win, the Redskins have to lose on Sunday — at least according to a bizarre statistical correlation that's been accurate for seven decades.

"I'm hoping John Kerry can kind of reverse the curse," Smoot said. "This is a millennium for all that's to be broken by now."

Since the Redskins became the Redskins in 1933, the result of the team's final home game before the presidential election has correctly predicted the White House winner. If the Redskins win, the incumbent party wins. If they lose, the incumbent party is ousted.

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# Mourners gather for vigil at Hendrick Motorsports

The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — Hundreds of candle-bearing mourners gathered outside the Hendrick Motorsports complex for a vigil Wednesday evening for 10 people who died in the crash of the team plane.

Team owner Rick Hendrick's son, brother and twin nieces were among the victims when the plane went down in the crash to a race Sunday in Virginia.

At dusk, the mourners lit candles while the Christian band MercyMe played on loudspeakers that were mounted above dozens of bouquets and cards.

There also was a large picture showing the victims in happier times with the inscription: "Always In Our Hearts."

Randie Skaggs of Denver, N.C., came to the service with her husband, Jeremy.

"The NASCAR community needs to stick together," she said, her eyes swelling up with tears. "We feel like we know all these guys because we follow all the teams."

Her husband wore a cap that showed his support for one of Hendrick Motorsports' drivers, Jimmie Johnson, who won Sunday's Nextel Cup race at Martinsville.

Johnson didn't learn about the crash until after he won the Subway 500.

"It was a real roller coaster," Skaggs said, holding his unit can-

## Sports briefs

die before the ceremony began. "Everyone was so happy for a minute and then we heard the news. It made the race seem so unimportant."

The Beech 200 King Air was headed from Concord to Martinsville, Va., when it slammed into the side of Bull Mountain in Patrick Springs, Va., after missing its first landing attempt. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash.

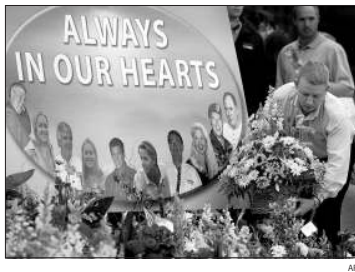
### Police: No alcohol or drugs in Strzelczyk at time of crash

HERKIMER, N.Y. — Former NFL player Justin Strzelczyk did not have alcohol or drugs in his system when he died after leading police on a highway chase, authorities said.

State police initially believed the one-time lineman for the Pittsburgh Steelers was intoxicated, saying he threw a beer bottle out the window during the pursuit. State police investigator James Hunt said Thursday troopers have since confirmed it was a plastic soda bottle.

Police are testing the liquid inside but it appears that Strzelczyk had been chewing tobacco and was using the bottle as a spittoon.

Strzelczyk, 36, died Sept. 30



A Hendrick Motorsports employee places flowers at a memorial site during a vigil on Wednesday at Hendrick Motorsports in Concord, N.C.

after his pickup truck slammed into a tanker truck and exploded after a 90-mph chase along a 40-mile stretch of the New York State Thruway.

Strzelczyk, an offensive lineman, played with the Steelers for nearly a decade until the team released him in 2000.

### Spencer loses his Nextel ride

CORNELIUS, N.C. — Jimmy Spencer was fired by NASCAR's Clum Motorsports, just days after he was arrested and accused of interfering with police officers as they attempted to serve a warrant on his son.

Spencer has driven 25 races for the team this season without posting a top-10 finish. The team didn't indicate whether the firing was because of Spencer's arrest.

On Sunday night, officers went

to Spencer's home to arrest James Jonathan Spencer Jr., 18, on a misdemeanor charge of injury to personal property. He is accused of pouring paint on two cars at a Cornelius home Oct. 6.

### Burns progressing in fight against cancer

NEW YORK — New Jersey Devils coach Pat Burns says he's making progress in his fight against colon cancer after finishing chemotherapy treatments this week.

"I'm still not out of the woods," Burns told the NHL's Web site. "I've been going through the process of chemotherapy and that's very difficult. Anybody who has been through this knows and if you haven't, you just don't know. It is very physically and emotionally draining."

The 52-year-old Burns announced he had cancer in April.

# Air NASCAR: Fast transit away of life

AIR NASCAR, FROM PAGE 25

Driver Alan Kulicki and three others were killed in the crash of a private plane in 1993 while flying to a race in Bristol, Tenn.

Later that same year, Davey Allison died in the crash of a helicopter as he tried to land at Talladega Superspeedway.

There had been no aircraft-related fatalities in NASCAR since, but that doesn't mean there haven't been accidents.

In one three-week period in November 2003, Martin's plane blew two tires taking off from a Goodyear, Ariz., airport after racing at Phoenix, a plane carry Petty crewmen also blew a tire on takeoff after a test earlier in Phoenix, and driver Tony Stewart's plane hit a deer while landing to refuel at a rural Texas airport on the way to the Phoenix race. There were no injuries.

"Things happen but in most cases, it's just a matter of being inconvenienced, having to wait for repairs or hitching a ride on somebody else's plane," Martin said. "There's still no substitute for the private planes."

There is, however, a substitute for the small plane.

Martin's team owner, Jack Roush, bought his 727s four years ago after starting to feel less and less comfortable about having up to 16 small planes in the air each race weekend.

"I have five teams and we'd have five small planes going to the track on Thursday night or Friday and five more on Sunday morning," Roush said. "I don't want to have five drivers were usually flying their planes in and out, too."

"There's tremendous congestion at these airports, although I think the FAA does a great job on regulating the air traffic associated with our events. Still, I didn't feel like I wanted to continue to have the responsibility for 16 airplanes, all the maintenance and pilot training."

Since his team has been using the big planes, with pilots trained for commercial airlines transporting most of his people, Roush said he is sleeping better.

"I'm confident as I can be in the safety of our planes and the ability of our pilots, I still breathe a sigh of relief every time we get through a race weekend without a problem," Roush said.

# Wizards' Haywood gets three for fighting

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Brendan Haywood of the Washington Wizards was suspended for three games by the NBA on Wednesday for fighting during a preseason game against the Chicago Bulls.

Antonio Davis and Eddy Curry of the Bulls received two-game suspensions, Washington's Larry Hughes drew a one-game suspension and Bulls guard Kirk Hinrich was fined \$10,000.

"It's tough," Curry said of his suspension. "I wasn't expecting that. But there's nothing I can do about it."

The penalties were announced Wednesday by NBA vice president Stu Jackson, who found Haywood most at fault for the fight late in the third quarter of Chicago's 100-95 victory on Monday night.

Haywood, Davis and Curry were suspended for throwing punches, while Hughes was penalized for initiating the confrontation by head-butting Hinrich.

The suspensions take effect with the start of

the NBA regular season next week.

"We accept the ruling handed down by the league, however we do feel it's heavy-handed," Wizards president Ernie Grunfeld said. "We will have to step up and come together as we will be short-handed for the first three games of the regular season."

Washington guard Gilbert Arenas has already been suspended by the NBA for one game because he failed to maintain proper registration of a handgun in 2003.

### Suns' Stoudemire gets contract extension

PHOENIX — Amare Stoudemire, the 2003 NBA Rookie of the Year, had his contract extended Wednesday by the Phoenix Suns, who extended their fourth-year option on the contract.

Stoudemire will receive \$2.6 million in the 2005-06 season, then he will be a restricted free agent. That gives the Suns the right of first refusal, meaning they could keep him by matching another team's offer.

The 6-foot-10 Stoudemire, who turns 22 next month, was the first player to enter the

NBA directly from high school and win its top rookie honor.

### Pacers' A. Johnson out 6-8 weeks

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers backup point guard Anthony Johnson broke his right hand in Tuesday's preseason game against Memphis and is expected to miss 6 to 8 weeks.

The eight-year veteran, the primary backup to starter Jamaal Tinsley, had his hand placed in a cast on Wednesday — the same day center Jeff Foster had arthroscopic surgery to repair frayed cartilage in his right hip. He is also expected to miss 6 to 8 weeks.

Johnson will not need surgery. Scott Pollard will start at center while Foster is out.

Forwards Jermaine O'Neal (sprained left foot), Ron Artest (sore right knee) and Anderson Bender (sore left knee) and center David Harrison (sprained left shoulder) have also been injured this preseason.

Carlie said there is "major concern" that O'Neal might not be ready for the regular-season opener at Cleveland on Nov. 3.

# NHL officials meet, but lockout is not a topic of conversation

By IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Negotiators for the NHL and its players' union discussed various topics in their first face-to-face meeting in over a month, but the league's labor problems were not the focus of the talks.

Ted Saskin, the senior director of the players association, was in New York on

business Tuesday and got together with Bill Daly — the NHL's chief legal officer.

The sides had not met in person since the last negotiating session on Sept. 9, one week before the NHL imposed a lockout following the expiration of the collective bargaining agreement.

"I know they were in the same place, but it was more of a conversation as opposed to a negotiation," NHL spokesman Frank

Brown said Wednesday, the 42nd day of the lockout.

Daly and Saskin talked about last month's World Cup of Hockey tournament, a joint venture between the league and the players association, and other issues.

No plans were made for future meetings.

The NHL regular season was due to begin Oct. 13, but games are being canceled by teams on a 45-day rolling basis.

During the last negotiating session in Toronto, the NHLPA proposed a luxury-tax-based system that was rejected by the league.

The NHL wants a system that guarantees "cost certainty," which the players association says is akin to a salary cap — a solution it refuses to accept.

Player representatives from all 30 clubs will meet with union leadership in Toronto on Tuesday to get an update on the lockout.







# Red Sox: Boston ends 86 years of futility

## RED SOX, FROM BACK PAGE

It was Boston's sixth championship, but the first after 86 years of frustration and futility, after two world wars, the Great Depression, men on the moon, and the rise and fall of the Soviet Union.

After all that, on an eerie night when the moon went dark in a total eclipse, MVP Manny Ramirez and the Red Sox made it look easy.

They became the third straight wild-card team to win the Series, and the first club to win eight straight in a postseason.

Gone was the heartbreak of four Game 7 losses since their last title, a drought — some insist it was a curse — that really began after they sold Babe Ruth to the Yankees in 1920.

Damon's leadoff homer against

Jason Marquis and Trot Nixon's two-out, two-run double on a 3-0 pitch in the third were all that Lowe and the bullpen needed.

"They outplayed us in every category, so it ended up not being a terrific competition," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said.

"We were ready to play. We didn't play good enough."

Having won the first-round clincher against Anaheim in relief and then winning Game 7 at Yankee Stadium, Lowe blanked the Cards on a mere three hits for seven innings.

Relievers Bronson Arroyo and Alan Embree worked the eighth and Keith Foulke finished it off for his first save.

Even before Doug Mientkiewicz caught Foulke's toss on Edgar Renteria's grounder for

the last out, the Red Sox were rushing out of the dugout. Boston players streamed in from the bullpen, and they all came together in a pulsating pile between the mound and first base.

With flashbubs popping, the hugging and jumping was electrifying. And why not? The day that would never quite come for a generation of Red Sox players and fans had arrived.

"We can't reverse what was a long time ago," first-year manager Terry Francona said. "This was our team this year. You can't do anything else about any other year."

Now the Red Sox get to raise the World Series banner next April 11 in the home opener at Fenway Park, with the vanquished Yankees in town forced to watch. No telling who will be

there — 18 Boston players are potential free agents, including Ramirez and Lowe.

Lowe followed up peak performances by Curt Schilling and Martinez, capping off a year in which Boston traded away popular shortstop Nomar Garciaparra.

"I'm so happy. I'm happy for the fans in Boston. I'm happy for Johnny Pesky, for Bill Buckner, for (Bob) Stanley and (Calvin) Schiraldi and all the great Red Sox players who can now be remembered by the greatest players that they were," Schilling said.

Schilling got himself traded from Arizona to Boston last November, eager to beat the Yankees and put the Red Sox in the World Series for the first time since 1918. He made it worth his while with the win ensuring him an extra \$15 million in a contract he negotiated himself.



Manny Ramirez

## Ramirez chosen as Series MVP

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Manny Ramirez will cherish this moment forever, same as every Red Sox fan from the bustle of downtown Boston to the coastal mountains of Maine.

Ramirez and the Red Sox finished a four-game sweep of St. Louis with a 3-0 victory Wednesday night, giving them their first championship since 1918. Now the shy kid who grew up in the shadow of Yankee Stadium owns a treasured spot in baseball lore — he is Boston's first World Series MVP.

"I never thought I'd get to be part of a World Series winner. But it's fun. Let me tell you," Ramirez said. "Before we went to spring training, I told my wife — 'I'm going to be the MVP of something. And I did it.'"

He batted .412 (7-for-17) with a homer and four RBIs against the Cardinals, helping the Red Sox end 86 years of pain and futility.

That was the idea when then-general manager Dan Duquette signed Ramirez to a \$160 million, eight-year deal in December 2000.

Ramirez put up prodigious power numbers during his first three seasons in Boston. But his awful defense, deplorable baserunning and hefty contract prompted the team to place him on waivers in October.

The front office then tried to trade him to Texas for AL MVP Alex Rodriguez. The deal fell through, and Ramirez was back in left field this season, flubbing fly balls and hitting homers over the Green Monster at Fenway Park.

He won his first AL home run crown, connecting 43 times. He also led the league in slugging percentage with .540, but he hit just 130 RBIs. But his absent-minded play kept skeptics wondering if he was really the guy to finally carry Boston to glory in October.

A long lineage of great sluggers had tried and failed, from Jimmie Fox to Ted Williams to Carl Yastrzemski and Jim Rice. But it was Ramirez who became a champion, earning every penny of that enormous contract.

Before the game, Ramirez and Barry Bonds received the 2004 Hank Aaron Award, recognizing the outstanding offensive player in each league. Ramirez also won with Cleveland in 1999, when he had 165 RBIs.



## Red Sox reverse the Curse

The Red Sox finally broke "The Curse of the Bambino," sweeping the Cardinals in four games to win the World Series. This comes after beating the Yankees in the ALCS, achieving the greatest postseason series comeback in history. Many people attributed their 86-year title drought to trading Babe Ruth to the Yankees.

### Highlights and blunders of the Boston Red Sox

|  |   |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |   |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| <p><b>1901</b> — Played their first season at Huntington Avenue Grounds</p> <p><b>May 5, 1904</b> — Cy Young threw the first modern perfect game; he posted a 192-112 record while with Boston (1901-08)</p> | <p><b>1914</b> — Purchased Babe Ruth from minor league Baltimore Orioles</p> <p><b>1915</b> — Won Series against Philadelphia</p> | <p><b>Jan. 3, 1920</b> — Yankees purchased the contract of Babe Ruth and a loan agreement since Ruth left, leading to the loss to St. Louis in seven</p> | <p><b>1946</b> — "Johnny" Pesky held the ball in the first appearance since Ruth left, leading to the loss to St. Louis in seven</p> | <p><b>1967</b> — Lost the Series to the Cardinals, ending "The Impossible Dream" when they came back from having the most losses in the majors the previous season; Carl "Yaz" Yastrzemski won the AL title crown (.326 average, 44 HRs, 121 RBIs)</p> | <p><b>April 29, 1969</b> — 1969 — After winning the AL East, Boston was swept by Sox lost the Indians in the newly formed series</p> | <p><b>1986</b> — After the wild card, Boston was swept by Sox lost the Indians in the newly formed series</p> | <p><b>1988, 1990</b> — After winning division titles, the Sox were swept both years by the Oakland A's</p> | <p><b>1999</b> — After losing the division series, Boston lost the ALCS to the Yankees</p> | <p><b>2003</b> — After the wild card, squeezed past Oakland in the division series, to lose the ALCS to the Yankees in seven</p> | <p><b>2004</b> — After breaking the Curse</p> |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|

SOURCE: Major League Baseball

AP

## Cards: Powerful St. Louis lineup bows out quietly vs. Boston

### CARDS, FROM BACK PAGE

"The odds obviously were against us," said Bill DeWitt Jr., the team's general partner and chairman of the board. "If we had won tonight it would be something to build on. But every time we hit the ball hard, it was right at somebody."

Mostly, St. Louis went quietly. The Cardinals scored one run in the last two games at home, where they had been 6-0 in the postseason, and won a crucial 4-for-28 with runners in scoring position in the Series.

The Cardinals totaled 12 runs, the fewest since the Braves had nine when they were swept by the Yankees in 1999.

The life seemed drained out of the Cardinals after the most forgettable play of the Series, pinch

er Jeff Suppan frozen between third and home with one out in the third inning of Game 3. Instead of tying the score at 1 on a run that the Red Sox had been conceding, Suppan ran into a double play.

Starting with that at-bat, the Cardinals' red-hot bats had only seven times in 54 plate appearances the rest of the Series, getting a homer, a double, three singles and two walks against a Red Sox staff that was considered far from dominant. They advanced only four runners into scoring position in Game 4.

It seemed as if it was shaping up as a sluggers' series after the Red Sox's 11-9 victory in Game 1. After that, the Cardinals scored just three runs.

Cleanup hitter Scott Rolen, second in the NL with 124 RBIs, was

0-for-15 with one RBI. He finished the year in a 12-for-75 skid after coming back from a strained left calf in mid-September.

No. 5 hitter Jim Edmonds, who hit 42 homers and had a career-best 111 RBIs, was 1-for-15 with three RBIs. Sanders was 0-for-9 with five strikeouts before getting benched in favor of John Mabry in Game 4. Mabry continued that trend, going 0-for-3 with two strikeouts.

Albert Pujols and Larry Walker had their moments, but were with any support from the rest of the offense. Walker was 4-for-5 in Game 1 and homered for the Cardinals' lone run in Game 3. Pujols had three of St. Louis' five hits in Game 2 but was silent in the clincher before singling to lead off the ninth.

Pujols, Rolen and Edmonds were horrible in the clutch, going a combined 1-for-12. None of them got a chance for redemption in Game 4.

Pitching shouldered its share of the blame. Before Jason Marquis gutted out six innings in the 3-0 Game 4 loss, the Cardinals had gotten very little from the rotation.

Marquis was the first starter to last long enough to qualify for a victory. The three pitchers who preceded him lasted a total of 11 1/3 innings and allowed 15 runs. Cardinals pitchers allowed at least one run in the first inning of all four games. St. Louis was dominated so completely, it never led.

"It's amazing," said Game 1 loser Woody Williams. "We were talking about that on the bench: Let's get one lead and see what happens. But it never happened."

## SPORTS



2003 NFL rookie of the year Boldin  
finally ready to make season debut  
for Arizona, Page 27

# Red Sox 86 curse

## Boston wins World Series for first time since 1918

BY BEN WALKER  
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — They are now forever a part of New England lore, names such as Pokey Reese right up there with Paul Revere and Plymouth Rock.

Because these Boston Red Sox — yes, the Boston Red Sox! — are World Series champions at long, long last. No more curse and no doubt about it.

Pedro Martinez paraded the trophy down the left-field line, hoisting it high over his head with both hands after Boston won it for the first time since 1918, beating the St. Louis Cardinals 3-0 Wednesday night for a four-game sweep.

Thousands of Red Sox fans at Busch Stadium roared. Seemingly believing, but they still couldn't believe their eyes.

"We know people who are 90 years old who have just said: 'Just one championship before I die,'" Red Sox chairman Tom Werner said.

Johnny Damon homered on the fourth pitch of the game, Derek Lowe made it stand up and the Red Sox wrapped up a Series in which they never trailed.

Ridiculed and reviled through decades of defeat, the Red Sox didn't just defeat the Cardinals. They dominated the team with the best record in baseball.

"All of our fans have waited all their lives for this night, and it's finally here. These guys did it for you, New England," Red Sox owner John Henry said.

Chants of "Thank you, Red Sox!" bounced all around the ballpark when it was over, with Boston fans as revved-up as they were relieved.

Only 10 nights earlier, the Red Sox were just three outs from getting swept by the New York Yankees in the AL Championship Series before becoming the first team in baseball postseason history to overcome a 3-0 deficit.



Boston Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek jumps into the arms of pitcher Keith Foulke after beating the St. Louis Cardinals 3-0 to win the World Series on Wednesday in St. Louis. The Red Sox, who in the ALCS became the first team to win a best-of-seven series after trailing 3-0, won their first title since 1918.

St. Louis Cardinals center fielder Jim Edmonds, second from left, and shortstop Edgar Renteria, right, watch dejectedly during Wednesday night's loss to Boston in Game 4. The Cardinals, who won 105 games during the regular season, hit .109 and had a team ERA of 6.09 in the Series.



**Ramirez becomes Boston's first Series MVP**

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**Long-suffering Red Sox fans can celebrate at last**

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**Lowe reaches high point by winning clincher**

Page 30

## Cards birds of another feather in Series play

BY R.B. FALLSTROM  
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Cardinals seemingly could do no wrong during the regular season. But that 105-win team bore no resemblance to the bunch that flopped in the World Series, losing 3-0 to Boston on Wednesday night and getting swept in four games by the Red Sox.

"I wish we would have given them a tougher fight," Reggie Sanders said. "They put the pressure on and we didn't have pressure on them at all, so it was an easy run for them."

The Cardinals had the National League's best offense and the second-best pitching staff. Not in the World Series, where they batted a feeble .190 and had a 6.09 ERA. The lineup was littered with historically bad performances at the plate, most notably by their trio of MVP candidates. And, the Cardinals' rotation, minus injured Chris Carpenter, was exposed as average.

"They outplayed us in every category," manager Tony La Russa said. "So it ended up not being a terrific competition."

The Cardinals waited 17 years before World Series trips, only to end the season with a dubious distinction: Only one team had more victories before getting swept, the 1954 Indians, who were 111-43 before losing to the New York Giants.

The wait was nearly as long for La Russa. Maybe it was even more gut-wrenching on a personal level, considering that in his last shot at the championship in 1990 his heavily favored Oakland Athletics got swept by the Cincinnati Reds.

After falling behind 3-0, ownership would have been happy with one victory. They were realistic not to expect another comeback like the Red Sox pulled off in the AL Championship Series against the Yankees.

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